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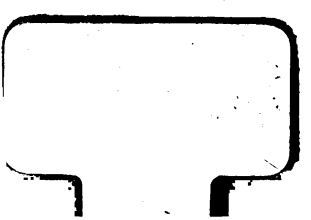

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A BRIEF

HISTORY OF WORCESTER,

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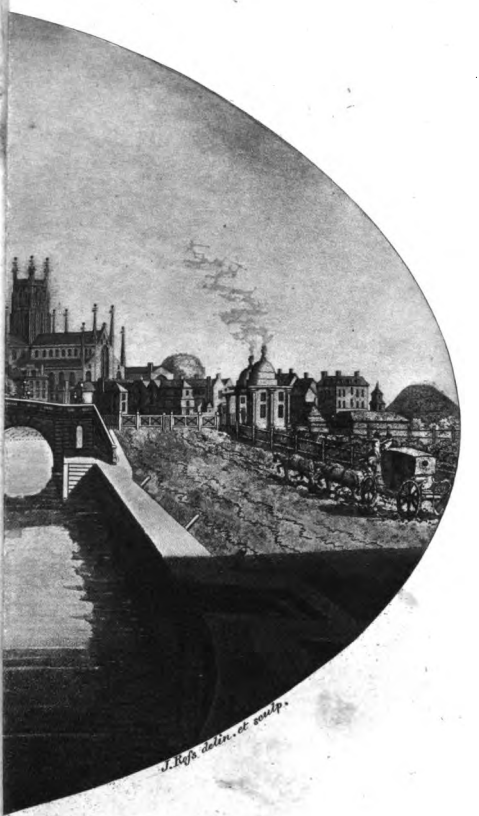

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A BRIEF

HISTORY

OF

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WITH

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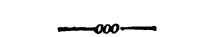

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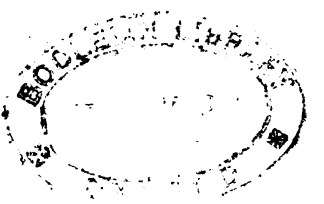

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PREFACE.

THE utility, convenience, information, and amusement, which works of this nature are calculated to afford, is generally admitted; but more particularly so by the traveller and man of business, whose time and inclinations will not admit of perusing the more extensive and elaborate productions of a similar nature.—To these, and the public, the Editor would, with the greatest deference, submit the present work, which is derived from the most authentic sources, and rendered with a faithfulness on which they may rely:—he therefore hopes, it will be found, upon the whole, as

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adequate to the purpose of general information, and satisfactory to the curious, as the size and nature of the work will possibly admit.

R. G.

Worcester, 1806.

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HISTORY

OF

WORCESTER,

&c. &c.

ETYMOLOGY.

THE origin of celebrated cities is not less obscure, than the first production of the rivers, on which their commerce and splendour depend; and yet the antiquary, as well as the naturalist, will be warm and confident—the one, as if he had traced all the secret syphons that feed the fountain: the other, as if he had turned up foundation-stones, inscribed with the name of the prince that laid them. But after the strictest search into history, it certainly proves a matter of difficulty at the present period, to investigate with any accuracy or precision, the ancient name of the city of Worcester. It is unquestionably of great antiquity; for we find it mentioned in various authors by different appellations, during the time it was under the dominion of the Saxons. Writers, however, in general, during those dark periods,

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were by no means exact in the regularity of their orthography, and hence arises the uncertainty in which the origin and ancient state of our cities is involved. Worcester is called by the Welch, *Caerwrangon*, i. e. a fortified city; by the Saxons it was written *Wigaerne*, signifying "the warrior's lodge," the hero's place of retirement; others deduce the etymology from *Wic*, as the hills encompass it from the east to the Severn. It was, as some writers relate, probably built by the Romans (said to be founded by Constantius Chlorus) who, to prevent the incursions of the Britons on the opposite side of the Severn, planned cities as fortresses on the eastern bank. But without venturing etymologies, founded upon learned conjecture, or the fanciful interpretations of individuals, which are so various on this subject, we shall content ourselves with the most probable and true derivation of the present name of Worcester, from Doomsday-Book, where it is written *Wircestre*, the station or camp under the hill; its termination, *cestre* (agreeable to the celebrated Camden) plainly denoting it to be a fortified place, as we find no exception whatever of the kind in the whole kingdom.

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BRIEF SKETCHES OF WORCESTER AND ITS ENVIRONS.

WORCESTER ranks high among the most ancient and eminent cities of this kingdom, both for extent and population, as there are reckoned but five superior to it in these respects, while, for general neatness and regularity in its buildings, convenience and pleasantness of situation, it is generally allowed by most travellers not to have an equal; the principal part of the city occupies the most elevated ground from the north to the south, arising gradually from the eastern bank of the Severn; Abberley hills present themselves on the north-west; and on the east side the view is finely terminated by several beautiful eminences, tufted with trees; between the south and west, at the distance of about eight miles, the majestic and venerable piles of Malvern rise; this mountain, which befriends its whole neighbourhood, is particularly beneficial to Worcester, not only for its salutary springs, but also for the numerous assemblage of rank and fashion it attracts there during the summer season. The geographical situation of this city is in the latitude of 52 degrees 18 minutes, and longitude west 2 degrees and 15 minutes.

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Constantius Cæsar has been assigned for the founder of Worcester, on the credit of John Ross, of Warwick, (a writer cotemporary with King Edward IV.) but the authority is rather dubious and uncertain which Constantius is meant; whether the son of Constantine the Great, Fl. Jul. Constantius, or Constantius Chlorus, the father of Constantine, who was declared Emperor upon the resignation of Dioclesian and Maximilian; the latter of which seems most probable, as the public spirit of Constantius drew many architects into Britain; but there are writers, however, who are divided in opinion, whether its rise should be ascribed to the Romans, or Saxons, by whom, about A. D. 584, the kingdom of Mercia was founded, which soon reduced all the British settlements on the east of the Severn. But Worcester, whether it owed its origin to the Romans or not, was certainly of some note, and possessed by the Britons before the arrival of the Saxons. There are various opinions in the present day, whether Worcester was a Roman station or not, which, from the name given to the city by the Saxons, *Weogorna Ceastre*, "implying that they had found either a Roman camp or fort in this place:" from an important pass in the line of communication between two Roman stations, the river here being in most summers fordable, especially near the College, for which a fort must have been necessary for the reception of troops; and from the remains of Roman roads at no great distance from Worcester, it seems most probable that it was. I shall not, however, attempt to decide upon a subject about

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which so many various conjectures have been formed, all of which must be still left in a state of uncertainty, and to the determination of individual judgment.

Worcester was, no doubt, a part of the Mercian kingdom, and possessed by the Wiccii; and it is probable that Penda, who began his reign in 625, was the first active and enterprising commander of those people, who first made this city subject to them; for we find that Wulfere, his son, who began to reign in 658, and was more victorious than his father, appointed Osric, or Oshere, one of his great men, a Viceroy of the Wiccii province, (which consisted of the counties of Worcester, Glocester, and part of Warwickshire,) and his residence was no doubt in the castle at Worcester, now used as our county prison.

A considerable number of years having elapsed, we find England overrun with the depredations of the Danes, and this place suffering in the general wretchedness of the kingdom. It was plundered, and burnt to the ground; insomuch, that it remained in ruins and uninhabited, until Ethelred, Viceroy of the Wiccians, with his lady, Ethelfreda, daughter of Alfred the Great, invited the inhabitants to resort again to their ancient residence. A Bishop's see was established here, and, numbers returning, great privileges were granted to them.

Notwithstanding the losses sustained by the

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plundering of the Danes, yet, when a duty was laid upon the nation at large, called the Danegelt (a tax of one shilling, then of two shillings, for every hide of land, or as much as one plough could cultivate in a year,) to oppose their cruel devastations, we find Worcester join with other parts of the kingdom in a refusal to pay the subsidy. Though the evident design of this tax, was to enable government to raise troops for the general security, and prevent a renewal of these plundering invasions; yet such is oftentimes the obstinacy of mankind, even to schemes tending to their own good, that it was looked upon as oppressive by a great part of the nation: and a spirit of discontent arising, a general murmur ran through the whole country. Two of the Huscarles, or confidential servants of the King, were sent to Worcester in 1041, to inspect the collection of the tax, but the multitude rose upon them, and though they endeavoured to save themselves in one of the towers, they were intercepted and slain.

King Hardicanute, highly irritated at this offence, was resolved to take a severe revenge, and for that purpose detached a large body of forces, with orders to put all the inhabitants indiscriminately to the sword, and afterwards to destroy the city. Bishop Alfrick is even said to have instigated him to this act of cruelty, because the citizens had refused to accept him as their Bishop.

This design would, in all probability, have

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been put in execution, had not the inhabitants been apprized in time. They had previously endeavoured to treat with the King, by delivering up the chiefs concerned in the murderous act; but now finding themselves doomed to be involved in one general destruction, they broke off all pacific measures, and consulted upon the best means of providing for their safety. Unanimity prevailed; for each individual, seeing the danger common, was forced to coincide with the best method for the general security. Not finding the city tenable, they prudently retired into the small island of Bevere, about two miles from Worcester, up the current of the river Severn; this they fortified with all possible skill, resolving to sell their lives dearly, or obtain from Hardicanute more moderate terms. The soldiers, on their arrival at Worcester, perceiving the place void of inhabitants, began to plunder the city, which lasted four days; and after they had glutted their avarice, set it on fire, and the houses being built with timber, and mostly covered with straw, were quickly reduced to ashes. They afterwards went to attack those who had entrenched themselves in the island of Bevere; but meeting with a vigorous resistance, and being frequently defeated, the commanders of the King's forces were so terrified at the general spirit of discontent which seemed to prevail through the country, that they granted to the besieged honourable terms of capitulation, which were accepted. Upon the retreat of the army, the inhabitants returned to rebuild the city.

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Though it may, with probability be conjectured that the city of Worcester, after so general a destruction, must have taken a considerable time to re-establish itself, still we find in the Conqueror's survey, (drawn up about forty years afterwards) that it was at that time a considerable city, with the privilege of coining money. In Doomsday it was taxed at fifteen hides, and when it coined any money, every coiner paid for his dies at London, twenty shillings to the Conqueror, who received from hence 23l. 5s. in weight, paid to him by the sheriff; besides a certain sum of money from every housholder for the house he lived in, called burgage money. To the Conqueror we find the inhabitants of Worcester to have been faithful; to his son Rufus, equally so; an instance of which occurred in the second year of his reign. When Bernard de Newmark, with many other powerful Barons of the Marches, invaded this country in a hostile manner, threatening the lives and destroying the habitations of those who adhered to the King; the citizens took up arms in their own defence, and aided by the skilful advice of Bishop Wulstan, who defended the castle, they sallied out when the detached parties were plundering the country in various directions, and totally defeated them after repeated engagements. In the whole of this laudable transaction, as well as uniformly through life, Bishop Wulstan seems to have supported an amiable and unsullied character, which he obtained, as much by the piety of his life, as by a close attention to the happiness, and

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temporal welfare of his people. Yet as many form their opinions through some foolish prejudice, we find that severe reflections have been made upon this holy Prelate by sundry modern writers; but if the utility of recording the noble deeds of the dead, be to excite in the living an emulation to imitate their virtuous examples, the page of history can hardly afford a more worthy object than that of this Prelate. It appears rather singular that the preservation of the city was accomplished, principally, by the skilful counsel of Bishop Wulstan, without the co-operation of the nobles of the adjacent districts; the truth is, the Barons were, even then, jealous of the increase of the royal prerogative, and connived at any disaster which might tend to diminish its rising power: for, during the prevalence of the feudal system, many great families were ruined by revolutions in government; and the civil wars during the reign of Henry, had given to that monarch an opportunity of dividing some of the Baronies, which by their power and opulence were become obnoxious to the crown.

Stephen, who ascended the throne contrary to the rule of hereditary succession, was obliged to pursue the same line of conduct. He expelled William de Beauchamp, who was Lord of the city and castle of Worcester, from his situation, as being too firmly attached to the Empress Maud, and gave it to Walleran, Earl of Mellent. Walleran soon after incurring the King's displeasure, Stephen resolved to deprive him of what he had formerly granted to him, but the

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former found so powerful a support from the interest of the Nobles, that Stephen, in the fifteenth year of his reign, assaulted and burnt the city of Worcester. He also made many fruitless attempts upon the castle, but was obliged to abandon the siege; whereupon he raised two forts, or mounds, to confine the garrison, the one upon Henwick Hill, to the north-west of the city, the other on a part of the Red Hill, near Digley, to the south-east; the remains of which may be traced to this day.

Notwithstanding numerous concessions were made, during the preceding reigns, in favour of the people, yet, under John, the spirit of liberty rose to such an height, that in 1214, when that monarch held his chief synod at Worcester, sundry of the Nobles came with their petitions against the many grievances which were said to exist. The Barons uniting in their claims, the King was soon after obliged to sign Magna Charta, and to restore to the different ranks of people, some portion of the liberties of which his predecessors had deprived them. Soon after that memorable act, the Barons increased their insults to the King, as liberty but too often degenerates into licentiousness; and a war ensuing, they offered the crown to Philip, son of Lewis King of France. The hatred that John bore to the Barons was ever detrimental to his interest; and, through the power of William de Beauchamp, Lord of Worcester, the Earl of Mellent, and others, who sided with the Barons, we find that the city of Worcester

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was delivered up to Philip soon after the commencement of that melancholy contest.

Though Worcester was afterwards recovered to his interest, and large sums raised spontaneously in the adjacent parts, to support John's cause; yet a series of misfortunes seemed to attend that unfortunate monarch: after having lost his treasure, &c. in the Wash, between Lincolnshire and Norfolk, he arrived at the Abbey of Swinehead, where he died. By his own particular desire, his body was brought by the Earl of Pembroke, and the Pope's Legate, to Worcester, and interred with great pomp and splendour in the centre of the choir of that cathedral. The following account of his death, I find in an old book in black letters, in the Spetchley Library;—how far it may be authentic I shall leave to the judgment of the better informed reader.—See Heylin, and many other writers on the same subject.

"And the Monke toke the cuppe, and "fylled it with good ale, and broughte it before "the Kyng—neyling, Syre, sayd he, Wassayl, "for never the daies of youre lyfe dronke ye of "so goode a cuppe. Begyn, Monke, sayd the "Kynge; and the Monke dronke a gret "draughte; so tooke the Kynge the cuppe, "and the Kynge dronke also a gret draughte "and lette down the cuppe. The Monke anon "ryghte went into the farmarye, and there "dyed, anone, on whose soule God have mercie. The Kynge arose up anone full loyl at

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" ease, and commanded to remove the table,
" and axed after the Monke; and men told
" hym that he was deed, for his wombe was
" broken in sundre. When the Kynge herde
" this, he begun to swelle, for the drinke he
" had dronke; & wtn two daies he dyed, on
" the morrow after Sainte Luke's daie, anno
" 1216."

John seems to have been particularly partial to Worcester, as appears from the long residence he oftentimes made there; he also regulated the form of the civil government of most boroughs in the county, particularly of Droitwich and Bromsgrove; and granted to the priory and church of Worcester the most valuable privileges they possessed; so that, notwithstanding the odium and contempt which he incurred from his people, it must be acknowledged that his reign was not altogether barren of laudable transactions.

From this time, except some partial details in which this city partook, in some small degree, in the general calamities of the kingdom, we do not find any circumstance sufficiently material to record. Scenes of misery and civil distress are but too carefully transmitted to posterity in the page of history, whilst the happy periods of peace and industry remain lost and unrecorded. We may, therefore, conclude that this interval, in which all historical information is silent, was a time of peace and tranquillity to its industrious inhabitants. But during the turbulent reign of

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Charles the First, we come to a period in the history of Worcester, when that city was doomed to suffer all the dire effects which civil dissentions generally entail upon mankind. It had been previously remarkable for its attachment to the cause of royalty, and, during the great rebellion, we find it adhere to the same line of conduct: a detail of the principal circumstances, from the commencement in 1642, to the termination in 1651, may, perhaps, prove acceptable.

The city, on account of the navigation of the river, the fertility of the adjacent country, the security of the place, and the reciprocal communication it had with other towns, soon became a desirable object to parliament, and accordingly, early in the business, we find sundry attempts made to get possession of it.

About the year 1642 the city was occupied by the King's forces, the strength of its works was much augmented, and supplied with every thing requisite for the defence of the place; but it was doomed not to remain long in a state of tranquillity; for Colonel Tynes, with a body of nearly six thousand horse and foot, laid siege to it, and formally demanded possession of the place for the parliament; but orders being given by the acting governors, Lord Coventry and Sir William Russell, for a resolute defence, the republican army, being without any battering ordnance, thought proper, after a few skirmishes, to act merely on the defensive.

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Yet what the strength and power of the enemy were not able to effect, the imprudent conduct of the royal chiefs easily brought to pass. Prince Rupert, with his brother, Prince Maurice, in order to shew the utter contempt in which they held the parliamentary forces, marched out of Worcester with the greatest part of the garrison, into a large meadow called Pitchcroft; there they hung in effigy the chiefs of the opposite party, making the soldiers shoot at them, at the same time challenging the republicans, in the most insolent language, to a trial of skill and courage. The republicans, fired with indignation at such a taunting display of fictitious bravery, assembled together the greatest part of their troops, though they were distributed round the different avenues to the city, and a great part, stationed in Saint John's, on the other side of the river Severn; notwithstanding this disadvantage, Colonel Sandys and Colonel Austin exerted themselves, and finding their men all actuated by the same spirit of anger and revenge, a furious and sudden onset was made upon the royal forces, who not expecting such an attack from the scattered corps of the enemy, and more prepared for pomp and parade than for a regular combat, were easily put to flight; the Prince's troops entered into the city in great disorder, and Colonel Sandys resolutely following them, a bloody and most spirited conflict ensued, in the different streets, which lasted till midnight. The chiefs of the royal party, fearful lest the event should prove fatal to them, and having every thing to dread from the furious

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spirit of the enemy, in case their retreat should be cut off, withdrew with the remains of their army over the bridge, leaving the city in the unexpected possession of the enemy. The Earl of Essex, the next day, entering the city, the whole was seized upon for the use of the republican party. Thus was this fine city exposed to all the dire effects of rapine and plunder, which an irritated enemy could devise, in consequence of a mere act of ill-conceived bravado, more becoming the renowned Knight of La Mancha, than the prudent General of a regular army. It however presents us with a remarkable instance of the uncertainty of warlike transactions, and that the greatest events may be oftentimes traced back to slender causes.

We may easily conceive that a place, taken as it were by storm, could not be saved from the pillaging of the soldiers; they accordingly visited the cathedral on the Sunday following, in large bodies, and wantonly plundered it of every thing which could be deemed valuable. They pulled down the altar, and burnt the greatest part of the rich vestments in the college yard; they destroyed or mutilated most of the tombs, taking off all the brass plates; lead also seems to have been an article, the value of which they could easily procure, as they stripped it off most of the public buildings, and even dug up all the pipes, which were used to convey water from a fine spring in Henwick-Hill, over the bridge to the lavatory, adjacent to the cathedral. The vault beneath the cathedral was also exa-

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mined, and in it was found a large quantity of stores and provisions which had been provided for the use of the garrison. The Mayor, and another Alderman, were sent prisoners to London, and with them a waggon-load of plate, weighing 2200lbs. the greatest part of which belonged to the Corporation, and was intended for the King's use.

The Earl of Essex, previous to his departure, imposed a fine upon the city of 5000l. and then distributed his army into three bodies, with one of which he marched towards Shrewsbury, against that part of the royal forces which was commanded by the King in person.

But the loyalty of the inhabitants of Worcester was not entirely downcast: a certain spirit of irritation and revenge, caused by the repeated depredations and losses they had sustained, seemed to pervade the minds of the principal citizens; for although small injuries may be effaced from the memory, yet a continual succession of them, as in the present case, comprehended a multiplicity of circumstances, all of which tended in no small degree to renew the injury, and to enkindle fresh rage and animosity.

In 1642, Worcester was again taken by Sir John Byron; and in 1646, Sir William Brereton, Colonel Morgan, and Colonel Birch, summoned the city to surrender; but receiving a spirited answer from the Governor Washing-

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tion, they drew off their forces to Droitwich. The ensuing month they received numerous reinforcements, which had been employed in the reduction of Ludlow Castle, and other places on the confines of Wales, and made their approaches so near to the city, that the inhabitants were terrified, and mutinously insisted on the surrender of the place. During the doubtful event of this civil contest, there had been always two contending parties in the city and neighbourhood, it being almost an impossibility for any gentleman to observe a neutrality: the loyalists, who consisted mostly of persons possessed of the greatest rank and property, both in the city and county, had numerous adherents; as, wherever there is wealth, there will be dependance and expectation. The republican party, on the contrary, was made up of men in low and desperate circumstances, who, fond of the novelty which civil commotions create, and oppressed by the frowns of the world, easily entered into any schemes which might alleviate their present indigence; poverty being so powerful as oftentimes to produce a passive compliance even with the crimes of others. The whole garrison amounted at first, to only 1507 men, including officers—a force much too small to defend so extensive a place. Of this the republican partizans within the city took advantage, and were resolved to use all their endeavours to have the place given up to the besiegers. A secret correspondence was carried on between them, and every public plan, or design of the Governor's, was generally frustrated by the

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immediate information communicated to the enemy. This, and various other reasons, induced the Governor, after mature deliberation, to surrender the city to Major General Reynesborough, on the 19th of July, 1646, by an honourable capitulation, which preserved the city from plunder or devastation.

A number of persons of rank marched out of Worcester on its surrender, among whom were the Earl of Shrewsbury, Lord Talbot, Lord Brereton, Sir Edward Littleton, Sir Rowland Berkeley, Sir Martin Sandys, Sir William Russell, Sir Barnabas Scudamore, the intrepid Governor of Hereford, and a number of other distinguished personages.

There were found in the town 3000 soldiers, of whom nearly 2000 were townsmen; 3000 stand of arms, 28 cannon, 6 drakes and sling pieces, about 30 barrels of powder, match 6000; and malt and corn for six months; a supply of provisions and ammunition which proved extremely useful to the parliamentary army. But these unhappy commotions, with which the whole nation was convulsed, were now coming to a crisis, and, after an interval of five years, this city was doomed to suffer for the cause of royalty, all the miseries which civil discord, and the animosity of party could excite.

Charles the Second, with his army from Scotland, accompanied by the Dukes of Ha-

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milton and Buckingham, and various other noblemen, appeared before Worcester. He had flattered himself that Shrewsbury and Glocester would have declared for him during his march, and that his forces would have been encreased by volunteers in the different parts of the country through which he passed, but it happened quite the contrary; for when he came to Worcester he had the mortification to find, that his troops were not more numerous than when he left Scotland. The principal inhabitants, who had always remained firm to the cause of royalty, rejoiced at an opportunity of leaving the banners of anarchy; the common council of the city had directed the gates, which the parliamentary soldiers had kept shut, to be opened. This order was obeyed, insomuch, that the small garrison escaped by flight to Pershore, the King entering the city without opposition.

Various reasons induced Charles to select Worcester as a place well suited for the commencement of his operations in England; some of them are briefly related in Ibbetson's Proceedings in Parliament, No. 105, p. 1622.

"The 22nd of August, 1651, with 500 "horse and dragoons, about noon, he (the "King) entered Worcester, than which no place "seemed more to answer all his ends, it being "a city seated on the Severn, within twelve "miles of five counties, near unto Glocester, "the Forest of Dean, and South Wales, where

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" Massey (who a little before was called off " from the Earl of Derby to serve this design) " pretended his great interest to be; and by " gaining that place the enemy well knew " he should be master of all the passes upon " Severn, from Shrewsbury to Glocester (and " there not being a hundred of the parliament's " forces within twenty miles of him), he might " lie the more secure, for refreshing his wearied " men, employ his interest to get what additional " men he could from these parts, or, at least, " might make it up a winter war, and thereby " gain time for foreign assistance, and better " opportunity for his agents to stir up tumults in " England, and for raising a new army in Scot- " land."

Charles on his arrival was proclaimed with great solemnity, and the same day published a manifesto, declaring his grievances, specifying the justice of his pretensions, and exhorting the people to assist him in the recovery of the throne of his ancestors. For this purpose summonses were sent to the chief gentlemen of the city and neighbourhood, desiring their attendance to consult on the best means of securing the public tranquillity. A general rendezvous was accordingly held on the 26th, in Pitchcroft, where appeared Lord Talbot (afterwards Earl of Shrewsbury), Sir John Packington, Sir Walter Blount, Sir Rowland Berkeley, and other distinguished persons, with a reinforcement of about 2000 men, which added to the King's forces, made an army of 12,000 men; but,

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being mostly new raised, were in general badly equipped, and extremely deficient in regularity and discipline. Cromwell, with all that diligence and activity for which he was so eminently conspicuous, no sooner heard of the King's arrival at Worcester, than he left the siege of St. Johnston's, on the 3d of August, in order to pursue the unfortunate monarch with all possible speed. He accordingly set out with his army, which consisted of nearly 17,000 men, and on the 28th arrived near Worcester, and fixed his head quarters at the house of Judge Berkeley, at Spetchley, within two miles of the city. Being joined by the troops under Fleetwood, Harrison, Sir Thomas Honiwood, and others, the whole of his force is said to have exceeded 30,000 men, the greatest part of whom were cavalry. So shrewd and penetrating a person as Cromwell, soon discovered that no time was to be lost; and perceiving that the superiority both in force and discipline was evidently in his favor, he knew that delays might prove extremely dangerous, and therefore conjured his different officers to use all possible expedition in their various attacks, and chill, as he hypocritically termed it, "the flower of pride before it could arrive at a blossom." We accordingly find that the very day of his arrival was marked by a vigorous commencement of hostilities on the part of the republican army.

The quarters of the royalists were very extensive, being obliged to defend all the passes

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of the Severn; and Major General Massey had been stationed at Upton with between 500 and 600 horse, to secure that place and bridge, but these men were placed in different parts of the town and neighbourhood, for the better accommodation of themselves and horses, insomuch that the main body, destined to defend the pass, was quite inconsiderable. On the 28th, early in the morning, Major General Lambert, with a body of horse and foot, came from Evesham to reconnoitre them, and observed their careless posture; remarking also, that the town was entirely open to his attack, he resolved to take immediate advantage of the circumstance. A party of his men was ordered to take possession of the church, which was executed without much trouble, and the battery of cannon, which had been planted in the church yard, turned against the enemy. All was hurry and confusion among the royalists, who were not in the least prepared for so sudden an onset, and before they could muster their scattered forces together, the republicans had rendered themselves masters of the bridge, and secured their position on the western bank.

A severe contest, notwithstanding, ensued between the two parties, but the unexpected panic was not to be overcome; and though Major General Massey did every thing that a brave and experienced officer could do, being himself shot through the hand and thigh, his detachment was completely routed, and forced to save themselves by a precipitate flight to the

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troops stationed at Powyck. This action was of infinite advantage to the republicans, as it not only rendered them masters of an important pass, but also compelled the King's forces to contract their stations, and at the same time shewed the royalists, that they had to cope with a well-disciplined army, careful, circumspect, and always ready to seize upon every advantage which might present itself. The Lord General the same day moved his army to the Red Hill, and pushed his advanced posts close to the walls; having fixed his mortars, a fierce bombardment was begun on the town. The Fort Royal, a strong work erected on an ascent towards the east of the city, fired in return upon the enemy, but the artillery men, being mostly inexperienced, derived little advantage from their exertions.

The King in council, finding that little could be effected by remaining idle within the walls, whilst the enemy without was making regular approaches, had concerted the scheme of making a sally by night, with 1500 select men, to attack in two separate detachments the enemy's outposts and camp on the Red Hill: but the whole plan proved abortive, and many were killed and wounded. Cromwell's adherents in Worcester had made him acquainted both with the scheme and signals; and one Guy, who had conveyed the information, was the next day publicly hanged at the Cross. On the 3d of September, (the anniversary of the battle of Dunbar, so fatal to the cause of

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monarchy), Cromwell, who had passed the night at the house of a very intimate acquaintance, one Justice Symonds, near Spetchley, was up at break of day, and immediately sent orders to Lieutenant General Fleetwood (brother to Dr. Fleetwood, afterwards Bishop of Worcester), who lay with a large body of troops on the western side of the Severn, near Upton, to proceed with all possible dispatch, and make a vigorous attack on the royal forces stationed near the village of Powyck. Cromwell in the mean time was busily employed in throwing a bridge of boats over the Severn, about a quarter of a mile to the north of a place called the Catch, near to which the Teme forms a junction with that river. This part he had selected for various reasons, as fit to attempt a passage, the distance from thence to Powyck not being above a mile, and about the same to Worcester; so that he could either make a diversion, or assist the forces under the command of Fleetwood: the passage also was so convenient that he could at his discretion, let his boats drop down the current, and land his men either on the east or west bank of the Teme; a circumstance which afterwards proved of great utility.

A council had been convened by the King the same morning, about nine o'clock, on the top of the Cathedral Tower, from whence they had an advantageous view of the enemy; to their great astonishment, they not only beheld the republicans employed in erecting a bridge of boats over the Severn, but plainly perceived

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the firing which had now commenced, between Fleetwood's detachment and the royal forces who lined the hedges near Powyck.

At this sight, Charles went in person to give the strictest orders to Major General Montgomery, to defend the bridge of Powyck to the last extremity, and also to detach a party to oppose those who were attempting to pass the Severn; but the King's instructions were rendered totally ineffectual, by the speedy and skilful exertions of the enemy. Scarcely was Fleetwood arrived at Powyck bridge, than the detachment sent by Cromwell, having crossed the Severn to the eastern bank of the Teme, and routed the party sent to oppose them, came up just in time to cooperate with him, and attacked the main body of the royalists, which was drawn up in Wykefield (a large common field, now inclosed) near to the bridge; being the same ground where Charles the First engaged the forces of the Parliament, in the same month of September, 1642.

Fleetwood having soon rendered himself master of the bridge, and Cromwell's detachment pressing on, the King's forces were attacked both in front and rear; notwithstanding which, having discharged their musquets, they came to push of pike with the enemy; but after an obstinate contest of nearly two hours, they were forced to give way, and getting into disorder, were pursued with great slaughter to the drawbridge and gate of the city; Montgomery himself being dangerously wounded.

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Cromwell, brave to temerity in the execution of military enterprizes, seems to have been the very soul and spirit of this expedition; he was the first who landed on the west side of the Severn, over the bridge of boats, and acted on foot during the whole of the engagement, encouraging his men, both by word and example, to support their former reputation for valour and intrepidity. The event of this affair succeeded to the utmost of his wishes, and having witnessed the complete rout of the enemy in that quarter, he returned in all haste over the river to the main army encamped on the Red Hill.

During the hurry and bustle of the morning, the King appointed the chief officers of his army to rendezvous at the house in which he resided, towards the north end of New-street; the room in which they met was the King's bed chamber, facing the Corn Market. Over the entrance of the house was this inscription—"Love God (W. B. 1577, R. D.) Honour the King." It was the largest of the old houses in the city. He there proposed to them the measure of attacking the main army of the enemy with the whole force of the city.

This proposal seemed to be in general acceded to, as it was the common opinion that the greatest part of the republicans were on the western bank of the Severn, and consequently that by being so much weakened, they might be attacked to advantage. General Leslie alone intimated to the King, "that the Scottish forces,

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"as well as they appeared, would not fight; "and that he for one would not be responsible "for the event of such a measure." Though to give good counsel be the most evident mark of a firm attachment, yet we find that his advice was treated with silent contempt; most of the officers being young and inexperienced, were for vigorous measures, which agreed with the King's private opinion; an engagement was resolved upon, and the whole force of the city was ordered to be in readiness for a general action.

Cromwell, on his part, was not deficient in providing against every emergency; he had removed the principal part of his force to a more advantageous situation at Perry Wood, at the south end of which he caused a breast-work to be raised, and a battery of great guns to be opened upon the Fort Royal. It was drawing towards evening when the King, with the Dukes of Buckingham and Hamilton, Lord Grandison, Sir Alexander Forbes, and others of the nobility, marched with the main body of the army through Sidbury Gate, to make, according to the intended plan, an unexpected attack upon the whole line of the enemy; but Cromwell, whose adherents in the city were numerous, had received intimation of their design, and had prepared accordingly. The King's troops advanced, but instead of meeting with small and straggling parties, they found the republicans arranged, and waiting their approach with Cromwell at their head, who was supposed to be with Fleet-

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wood's forces at Powyck, on the other side of Severn.

We seldom find hasty measures prove successful, more particularly, when not favored by a certain contingency of circumstances, or where some probability of success does not seem sufficiently evident to encourage the design; in addition to this imprudence, an obstinate rashness seems to have been prevalent during the whole of this battle, and the result of it will justify the observation: notwithstanding the republicans were found so well prepared, the royal army were formed in order of battle, as well as the nature of the ground would permit, which proved in general, highly unfavourable; for Cromwell, with his usual skill, had seized upon every advantage which could be derived from the range of the country. The signal for engaging is said to have been given by Charles himself; the contest was desperate for four hours, the animosity and hatred of the two parties being violent to a degree. Victory in the beginning, seemed to favour the cause of the royalists, who forced Cromwell's troops to retreat, and took possession of their great guns; the honour of this atchievement is ascribed to the regiment commanded by the Duke of Hamilton, who behaved with astonishing bravery, having his horse shot under him, and soon afterwards fighting at the head of his men, was dangerously wounded; but this success was only momentary, perhaps even the retreat (as mentioned in a short MS. account) was a feint on the part of Cromwell, to throw

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them into confusion; for as soon as they pressed on, and got somewhat deranged, a fresh attack was made with a numerous reinforcement received from Powyck; this unfortunately had the desired effect; the royalists, who had expended all their ammunition, being obliged to fight with their swords, or the butt ends of their musquets, could not bear this onset, and were obliged to give way.

The King used every effort to persuade his men to renew the charge, riding up and down among them, with his hat in his hand, exhorting them to stand to their arms; but finding all his intreaties in vain, he exclaimed, "I had rather "you would shoot me, than keep me alive to "see the sad consequences of this day!" All his endeavours were, however, useless, the royalists were overpowered, and Charles being seen to ride away, the soldiers became panic struck: entire companies of the Scottish foot, as Leslie had previously mentioned, threw down their arms, and the whole army retreated in great disorder towards Sidbury Gate.

At this gate, which was rather narrow, Charles would certainly have been taken by Cromwell's cavalry, who were close at his heels, had not one of the inhabitants drawn a load of hay into the gate way, which blocked up the passage, so that no horse could enter; the King was obliged to dismount, and creeping under the hay, entered the city on foot. A cry being made to remount him, Mr. William Bagnall, a

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loyal gentleman who then lived in Sidbury, turned out his horse ready saddled; upon this horse his Majesty (after the fate of the battle had been decided) made his escape from the back door of the house where he resided, very narrowly avoiding the pursuit of Colonel Cobbet, who entered the front door just at the same time, in search of him.

It has been mentioned by some writers, that no royal mark of benevolence was given to Mr. Bagnall. It may be so; Charles, above all men, was particularly indebted to the generosity and unshaken loyalty of individuals for his support and preservation; but let it be remembered, that the satisfaction of doing good is of itself a great reward; and unhappy indeed would it be for mankind, if no one would do a generous action without anticipating an adequate recompense for the same.

The republicans having taken the Fort Royal by storm, put all indiscriminately to the sword, and its guns being pointed and fired upon the city, great confusion ensued, which was much augmented by the entrance of the victorious, who poured in on all sides. The Earl of Cleveland, Sir James Hamilton, Colonel Carless, Captain Honiwood, and others, rallied what forces they could in Sidbury, and endeavoured to charge the enemy, but they were unsuccessful, having numbers killed and wounded. The chief seat of the action lay near the Commandery; the Duke of Hamilton, when wounded,

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was carried thither and died; the next and last stand was made at a place called the Earl's Post, nearly opposite the Town-hall, where the conflict was carried on with desperate resolution on the part of the royalists, but with no better success than the former; they were overpowered by numbers, and no further attempt was made to resist the impetuosity of the conquerors. The chief persons slain in this battle, were, the Duke of Hamilton, Captain W. Erwyne, Major Knox, Sir John Douglas, Mr. Conningesby Colles, and about 3000 private men; the principal prisoners were, the Earls of Derby, Lauderdale, Cleveland, and Shrewsbury, with Lord Wentworth, taken in their flight. Generals Leslie and Middleton, Sir Alexander Forbes, who commanded the Fort Royal, and being shot through both the calves of his legs, lay in Perry Wood all night; Robert Earl of Carnwarth, Alexander Earl of Kelly, John Lord St. Clare, Lord Grandison, Sir John Packington, Major Generals Montgomery and Piscotty, Colonel Keyth, Mr. Richard Faynshaw, the King's Secretary, the General of the Ordnance, Adjutant General of Foot, Marshal General, six Colonels of horse, thirteen of foot, thirty-seven Captains of horse, seventy-two of foot, with a great number of inferior officers; one hundred and fifty-eight colours, the King's standard, his collar of S. S. and other things of considerable value, fell into the hands of the victors.

Cromwell, in his account to parliament, dated September 4, 1651, states "the royal army

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" to have been about 16,000 men; that the " battle was long and very near at hand, often " at push of pike, and that his own loss did not " exceed 200 men." But the following letter written by him to the Speaker of parliament, seems to give the most accurate account of the action.

A Letter from the Lord General to the Honourable William Lenthall, Speaker of Parliament.

" SIR,

" BEING so weary, and scarce able to " write, yet I thought it my duty to let you " know thus much: that upon this day, being " the third of September, remarkable for a mercy " vouchsafed to your forces on this day twelve- " month, in Scotland; we built a bridge over " Severn, between it and Teme, about half a " mile from Worcester; and another over Teme, " within pistol shot of the other bridge. Lieu- " tenant General Fleetwood, and Major General " Deane marched from Upton, on the south- " west side of the Severn, up to Powyck, a town " which was a passe the enemy kept. We past " over some horse and foot, and were in con- " junction with the Lieutenant General's forces. " We beat the enemy from hedge to hedge, till " we beat them into Worcester. The enemy " then drew all his forces on the other side of " the town, all but what he lost, and made a

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" very considerable fight with us for three hours " space; but in the end we beat them totally, " and pursued him to his royal fort, which we " took, and indeed have beat in his whole army.

" When we took this fort, we turned his " own guns upon him. The enemy hath had " a great loss, and certainly is scattered and run " several ways; we are in pursuit of him, and " have laid forces in several places, that we hope " will gather him up.

" Indeed this hath been a very glorious " mercy, and as stiffe a contest for four or five " hours as ever I have seen; both your old " forces, and those new raised, have behaved " themselves with very great courage; and he " that made them come out made them willing " to fight for you. The Lord God Almighty " frame our hearts to real thankfulness for this, " which is alone his doing. I hope I shall, within " a day or two, give you a more perfect account; " in the mean time, I hope you will pardon,

" Sir,

" Your most humble Servant,

" OLIVER CROMWELL."

" Near Worcester, 3 Sept. (3) 1651.
" Ten at night."

Thus was a final blow given to all the civil contests which had so long prevailed over different parts, and which established Cromwell in

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the possession of the three kingdoms. Few battles could be more critical or important as to the event; for if we judge of a victory, not by the number of the slain, or the partial miseries entailed upon individuals, but by the advantages obtained by the conquering party, no engagement could be more decisive, as to the general issue.

The parliamentary army, now masters of the city, committed all those depredations to which towns taken by storm are generally subject: few of the citizens escaped their violence, or cruelty, and in order to form some idea of the repeated losses sustained during the contests, it may enable the reader to appreciate the injury which befel public and private property, by briefly stating the disbursements of the city of Worcester alone, commencing from the year 1643.

	£.	s.	d.
Lent to King Charles at sundry times	3,500	0	0
Poor's Money taken up for do.	950	9	8
Paid for clothing, ammunition, &c.	4,435	3	11
	8,885	13	7
Plunder of the city, as given in upon oath	80,000	0	0
Ruining the suburbs, hospitals, &c.	100,000	0	0

Fortifications, 180l. per month.

Free quarter, contributions, fuel, &c. amounting to an immense sum.

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TOPOGRAPHICAL ACCOUNT OF THE CITY.

WORCESTER, a Bishop's see, and a place of great fame and antiquity, is situated in a fine vale, on the eastern bank of the Severn, nearly in the centre of the county to which it gives name: the surrounding country is peculiarly remarkable for its variety and fertility, and the boundaries and other outlines of view are every where pleasing. Towards the east it is shielded by some fine woods, which, rising into a hill, terminate the view in that direction, and at the same time that they conduce to the beauty of the scenery, add much to the salubrity of the place, by sheltering it from the easterly winds; it is open towards the north and south, and has generally a brisk current of air in that direction, the course of the river, which runs rapidly by the town. Towards the west, the sight is in some degree impeded by the swells which occur, yet the termination of the view is rendered by those undulations rather more pleasing; for the summits of the Malvern hills deceive in the distance, and appear near to the city, though it be upwards of seven miles to the village of Malvern, situated at their basis.

Worcester was formerly surrounded with a very strong wall, and had six handsome portes, or gates, all of which have been judiciously tak-

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en down, in order to improve the different entrances into the city.

Leland, who lived temp. Hen. 8, writes thus concerning this city:—"The towne of "Worcestre, called in Welsh Caer-argo, stand-"eth on the left ripe of Severne, upon a grounde "somewhat condescending from the river. It "is reasonably well wodded and well moun-"tained. In the wall be six gates: the Bridge-"gate on Severne, having a goodly square "tower over it; a Posterne gate by St. Cle-"ment's church, hard by the north side of the "Bridge over Severne; the Fore Gate, a fayre "piece of work, standing by north; Sudbury "Gate, standing east, in the way from Wor-"cestre to London; St. Martin's Gate; Trinity "Gate, this is but a posterne. There be di-"verse fayre streetes in the towne, well builded "with timbre, but the fayrest, and celebrated "streete of the towne, is from the Bishop's Pa-"lace to the Foregate, along by north."

Worcester lies 111 miles W. N. W. of London, 29 N. of Glocester, 30 E. by N. of Hereford, 26 S. W. of Birmingham, and is about four miles in circumference.

POPULATION.

The first account of the population of this city that I find mentioned, was made during

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the reign of Queen Elizabeth, when the number of families amounted to 1025; and during the great rebellion, in the time of Charles the First, the inhabitants amounted to 7176, and the garrison to 2007, total 9183.

In the plan of the city, by Mr. G. Young, in 1799, the number of houses in the city and suburbs, were stated to be 2449, but since the time of this survey, a considerable increase of buildings has taken place in various parts of the city, but principally on the beautiful terrace of Henwick Hill, west of the Severn, insomuch that we may venture to state, with a sufficient degree of accuracy, the present number of houses in Worcester, and its suburbs, to be 2563.

The following is a correct statement of its population, as taken by order of government, May 7, 1801.

	Males	*Females*	*Total*
Parish of St. Peter . .	592	818	1410
——— St. Helen . .	466	635	1101
——— St. Alban . .	83	129	212
——— St. Andrew .	729	1021	1750
——— St. Martin .	479	460	939
——— St. Swithin .	411	598	1009
——— St. Nicholas .	792	1058	1850
——— All Saints .	852	1053	1905
——— St. Clement .	451	564	1015
Total	4855	6336	11191

The above statement, is exclusive of the out Parishes of St. Michael and St. John,

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Bedwardine, the county part of St. Peter's, and Tything of Whilstones; which, if included, would make the total amount to be 12792.

PLAN.

The plan and construction of Worcester, in its outlines, are regular, and considering its great antiquity, may be deemed as perfect as any in the kingdom. Great improvements have been, and are daily making in its different avenues, and the late undertaking of a more direct communication between Sidbury and the south part of the High Street, not only adds much to the elegance of the place, but, in point of convenience, proves a valuable acquisition to the public. The streets are in general broad, so as to admit of a free circulation of air, well paved and lighted; of these, the Foregate Street, the High Street, and the Broad Street, are extremely regular and beautiful; indeed the general appearance of the whole city does credit to its inhabitants, and indicates at the same time, both taste and opulence.

SALUBRITY OF ITS SITUATION.

Worcester, by some, has been deemed an unhealthy place, much subject to fevers; but this cannot be owing to the air, or any natural

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cause, as the situation is remarkably dry and healthy. Instances of longevity in the inhabitants, by which its salubrity may be proved, are as numerous, as appears from its registers, as in any of the large towns of the kingdom. Great pains have of late years been taken, and great expences incurred, to clear and enlarge the sewers, to supply the city with water; the works erected for the latter purpose, are on the Severn, about a mile north of the city, and cost upwards of 11,000l. Indeed the great concourse of polite strangers who come here to reside from every quarter, is a strong indication of the superior excellence of this town and neighbourhood.

THE CIVIL GOVERNMENT OF WORCESTER

Is supposed to have been formed by Henry I. when he invested a Constable, with competent powers, to the office of Municipal Governor, which, from its reputation, soon became eligible to a more substantial form of civil establishment, for we find that Henry II. and Richard I. each added to its privileges; and King John, also, is imagined to have conferred a similar favor upon it. But the Monarch who first made Worcester free, or, in other words, remitted to it for ever, his tolls and other rights, was King Henry III. who, by his charter, in the forty-fifth year of his reign, invested the government of this city in

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two Bailiffs, from which time it became an incorporate town.

Other charters of privilege were granted and confirmed to it by several succeeding Kings, until James I. who, in 1621, and nineteenth year of his reign, granted a charter, that transferred the power from the jurisdiction of Bailiffs to that of a Mayor.

It appears the Corporation had surrendered their charter to King Charles II. in 1684, which was afterwards restored to them, with all their ancient rights and privileges, by a proclamation of King James II. in 1688.

The government of this city is now administered by a Mayor, Recorder, six Aldermen, (who are Justices of the Peace) and twenty-four Counsellors, (of which number, the Mayor and six Aldermen are always to be seven) and forty-eight capital Citizens, out of whom, two Chamberlains are annually chosen; there are also the Town Clerk, &c.

Worcester sends two Members to the Imperial Parliament. The right of election for which, on the 7th February, 1693, was agreed to be in the freemen not receiving alms, and in 1747, in the citizens not receiving alms, and admitted to their freedom, by birth, servitude or redemption, in order to trade within the city. The number of electors may be estimated at about 2400.

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PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

The public buildings of Worcester are numerous, and worthy the dignity and grandeur of the city. Among the many handsome structures which it has to boast of, one is remarkably pre-eminent, viz.

THE GUILD HALL,

which is situated near the middle of the High Street, is an elegant and superb modern edifice; began building in 1721, and finished in 1723, from a design of Mr. White, a native of Worcester, and pupil of Sir Christopher Wren. The front consists of two three-quartered columns composite, the windows have stone mouldings, differently ornamented underneath. Over the whole, a cove cornice, with a circular pediment from the pilasters, beneath which is a large Roman trophy; the imperial arms of England, supported by two angels, are introduced as principal of this group. The entrance is from a flight of four semi-circular steps; and the top is ornamented with five statues, viz. Justice, blindfolded, with her sword and balance; effigy of Peace, with the olive branch; Plenty, with the cornucopia; the other two represent Chastisement, and Hercules, or labour: between the two centre windows of the upper row in the front, is a statue of Queen Ann; on each side the entrance, are the statues of King

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Charles the First and Second, the former supporting the church, and the latter upholding regal government. The whole building, with the side wings, makes a noble appearance, and is justly esteemed the most elegant and magnificent of the kind in the kingdom.

The lower part of the inside is in one room, one hundred and ten feet six inches long, by twenty-five feet six inches broad, and twenty-one feet high. Its west side is taken up by the two Courts of Justice, viz. the Nisi Prius and Crown Bars, in which are held the Assizes and Sessions for the city and county.

Over the above is the Council Chamber, a most magnificent apartment, one hundred and nine feet in length, twenty-six in breadth, and fifteen feet eight inches in height, which, with the whole interior apartments, was last year (1805) most tastefully decorated and beautified, at a very considerable expence by the Corporation; so that it now ranks as one of the most splendid public rooms in the kingdom. In the centre opposite the entrance, is an excellent whole-length portrait of his present Majesty, a gift from him to the Corporation, when he honoured this city with his presence in 1788, placed on a pedestal of statuary marble, and otherwise elegantly embellished. There are also in the Hall below, some other good portraits, among which a fine whole-length painting of Thomas Winnington, Esq. is esteemed a master-piece by the ablest connoisseurs; in short, the whole of this exten-

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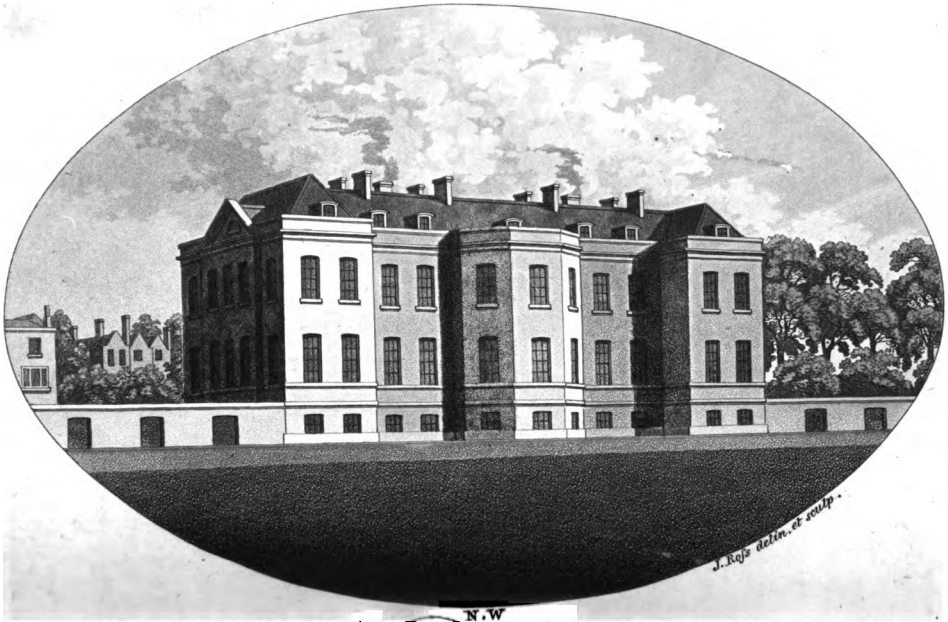

N.W

Worcester Infirmary.

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sive fabric is well adapted for every purpose for which it was intended, and may be justly ranked among the most elegant of the kind in the kingdom.

THE NEW MARKET HALL,

Situate near the centre of High Street, is not only an ornamental, but extremely convenient structure; it occupies a considerable space of ground, extending to the shambles; its interior arrangements are handsome, and in every way appropriate for the accommodation of the public; it has also added to the beauty and cleanliness of Worcester, by concentrating the various markets to one place, and preventing stalls of various kinds being put up in any part of the city.

The public are indebted to the Corporation for this general convenience, which was first opened, on the 18th day of February, 1804, after having expended 5034l. in its erection.

THE INFIRMARY,

As a public building, holds a very respectable rank among the ornamental structures of this city, and in a country distinguished for the opulence and humanity of its inhabitants, it is an agreeable task to shew how the superfluities of wealth are directed to the relief of disease and poverty. The Infirmary of Worcester, a public monument of beneficence and well-applied charity, is an elegant modern building, placed a

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little to the west of Foregate Street, on an eminence that commands a most extensive and exhilarating prospect over the Severn, comprehending the whole range of Malvern Hills, with the intermediate and surrounding country. It is accommodated with a very extensive garden ground, beneficial to the patients, for the exercise it admits them to take within its inclosure.

The scheme was first proposed by Sir John Rushout, towards which he subscribed the sum of five hundred pounds, and of this gentleman there is in the Committee Room, a most excellent marble bust, presented by himself, about five years previous to his death. In this laudable undertaking he was supported by Dr. Maddox, Bishop of Worcester, and by most of the nobility and gentry in the county.

The Infirmary was first opened in Silver Street, January, 1745, and in 1765, the Governors, from the suggestion of the Physicians and Surgeons, resolved on removing it to a more airy and less confined situation, and in 1770, the patients were taken from the old to the present new Infirmary. It is attended by three physicians and three surgeons. The day appointed for the admission of patients, is at the weekly board, held every Saturday, between the hours of eleven and twelve; but in cases of fractures or other sudden accidents, patients are admitted at any hour of the day or night, without any recommendation. The average number of in-patients is about 58, and of out-patients 150.

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The public and private concerns of this charity are governed by an excellent system of regulations, truly gratifying to its patrons and visitors; accommodating and beneficial to its afflicted inmates; and highly reputable to those more immediately concerned in its internal management. It is supported, by voluntary subscriptions, benefactions, and legacies; and being a *General* Infirmary, is open to patients of all countries. The cost of its erection was 0085l. 9s. 9d.

The receipts and disbursements of the above institution, for the last year, ending 1805, may tend to shew in some measure, the extensive benefit which must be derived from it, having admitted 52,102 poor objects as patients, since its establishment in 1745.

	L.	S.	D.
Receipts . . .	1660	6	7½
Disbursements .	1414	11	6½
	245	15	1

It must be a source of real pleasure to every benevolent heart, to observe this eminently good institution so liberally supported, and that its resources are at present fully adequate to its expenditure; this we trust will ever be the case, and that the inhabitants of Worcester and its neighbourhood, will emulate each other in the support and maintenance of this truly noble and excellent charity.

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HOUSE OF INDUSTRY,

Situated on a delightful eminence, at a small distance to the east of the city, is as remarkable for the elegance of its appearance, as for its fitness of design for the various purposes to which it is applied. It was erected by virtue of an act of the 32d of his present Majesty, and is under the management of twelve Directors, being calculated for the reception of one hundred and fifty persons. Here the poor of both sexes are well provided for, and trained up to the knowledge of trade; and what is of great advantage, to the practice of religion and virtue. Several attempts have been made to introduce different manufactories, but have not hitherto been attended with a success adequate to the good intention. As the principal trade of the city is confined chiefly to gloves, it has been considered by some, that confining the hands to that manufactory would be more advantageous to the town, and beneficial to the undertaking. This building was begun in June, 1793, and finished in December, 1794: its erection cost 7318l. 7s. 10d. besides 2273l. 3s. 3d. to purchase the fee simple of twenty-one acres of land adjoining to it, making together the sum of 9591l. 11s. 1d.

On the 10th of November, 1794, the poor of the united parishes of Worcester, were first admitted into this comfortable asylum, where the wants of the widow, the unprotected orphan,

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and the wretched, are carefully attended to, and relieved.

THE THEATRE,

Situate in Angel Street, has now to boast elegant interior decorations; and is a neat and commodious building, in every respect well adapted for the intended purpose; since the time of the original building, it has been much improved. Plays, during the season, are exhibited in it FOUR times a week, under the management of Mr. Hoy. Previous to its erection, dramatic representations were upon a very low scale in Worcester; a stable in the back yard of the King's Head Inn, which then stood opposite the Town Hall, being the only place appointed for the purpose, and of which Mr. Ward, the grandfather, and Mr. Kemble, the father, of the celebrated Mrs. Siddons, were managers: here it was, that justly-admired actress first displayed her unrivalled talents for the stage, and felt the effects of public applause. The present theatre was completed in the year 1780.

THE CITY LIBRARY,

Situate in Angel Street, is an institution, first established in the year 1790. A Librarian, with a proper salary, is appointed to conduct it, and from the well selected purchases made annually by the committee, it bids fair to become respectable in its number of books, as well as in the selection of its authors.

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Under this head, a cursory view of the rise and progress of the press in Worcester, may not improperly be taken; and we find, about the close of the year 1548, John Oswen, from Ipswich, settled in the printing business at Worcester, with privilege, soon after his arrival, from King Edward the Sixth, to print several books; but after the death of the King, which happened in 1553, Oswen's privilege doubtless fell, among the other deprivations that marked the progress of the succeeding reign; for we find that the press at Worcester is no more heard of, till the next century. The tracing of its operations I am constrained to relinquish, in order to note in a summary manner, the origin and progress of another class of its pursuits, namely, that of its periodical productions, or weekly journals, as continued to the present time.

From the best information, it is conjectured, that a public paper was established in Worcester as early as the commencement of the revolution, and it is clearly ascertained that this place was among the earliest, if not the first, of the provincial cities, that opened this very important and ready channel of communication of foreign and domestic intelligence.

It is uncertain, however, in what order of succession those publications were first issued, whether monthly or weekly, on what day of the month or week, or in what form, folio, quarto, or otherwise; but in June, 1709, they

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assumed a regular and orderly appearance, in a small folio, published every Friday by Stephen Bryan, under the title of "The Worcester Postman;" that title afterwards gave way to "The Weekly Worcester Journal," which it retained till about 1745, when the printing business and materials were assigned over to Mr. Harvey Berrow; the day of publication was changed at that time to Thursday, and is continued to the present. From the late Mr. H. Berrow, the Worcester Journal descended into the hands of the present proprietor, Mr. J. Tymbs, who has removed the Printing-Office from the Cross to a more convenient and eligible situation in the High-Street. This Paper, which is now published under the title of "Berrow's Worcester Journal," is conducted with considerable ability, on a much improved plan, and has a very extensive circulation.

The "Worcester Herald," another weekly paper, published in this city, is printed by Mr. T. Holl, a man of very good abilities as a printer, and well calculated to conduct such a concern. This paper has also a large circulation, and no doubt but it well repays the vigilance and assiduity of its proprietor.

THE WORCESTER FIRE OFFICE,

In this city, claims particular notice, as an institution peculiarly adapted to the safety, interest, convenience, and welfare of the city

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and its inhabitants; and not the less so to those without the city, who insure property in it; its funds are ample, its proprietors ostensible, its vigilance active and competent, and its firm composed principally of residents within the city. The interests of the insured and the insurers are thence so intimately blended, that they become mutual guarantees of each others property, and ultimately the most effectual safeguard of the city at large, that could be provided for its general or particular service.

THE BRIDGE.

The old Bridge over the Severn, being narrow, inconvenient, and much out of repair, H. C. Boulton and J. Walsh, Esqrs. the Members for the city, gave 3000l. either for repairing the old Bridge, or towards the erection of a new one. Accordingly, in September, 1781, the present elegant and superb Bridge was opened for the accomodation of the public; the expence of completing which, forming the avenues, quays, &c. are stated to amount to 29,843l. It is a noble structure, built under the direction of the late Mr. Gwyn, doing credit to the builder, and forming, from its judicious situation, by far the grandest entrance into the city of Worcester. In the act of Parliament obtained for erecting this Bridge, is a clause, directing, that when the sum borrowed on that security shall be reduced to 5000l. the toll on foot passengers shall

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cease. The existing debt at present (1805) is about 7800l. besides 310l. per annum paid on annuities; so that, from this reduction of the debt, disposal of the surplus ground, and advancing the tolls, which now let at 1840l. per annum, we may confidently hope the time is not far distant, when this truly-desirable end shall be attained.

THE CASTLE,

(Or present County Prison) situated near the Cathedral, is supposed, from sundry records, to have been built by Urso d'Abitot, a Norman captain, who came over with the Conqueror, and who was the founder of the Priory of Great Malvern. Leland describes it in the following manner:—"The Castle stood hard on the south "part of the Cathedral Church, almost on Severne. "It is now cleane downe, and half the base court "or area of it, is now within the wall of the close "of the Cathedral Church. The dungeon hill of "the castle is a great thinge, at this time over-"grown with brushwood. This castle fell to "ruin soon after the conquest, and halfe the "ground of it was given to the augmenting of "the close of the Priory."

The guard of the Castle appertained to the office of Sheriff of the county, which was hereditary in the family of the Earls of Warwick, till the 10th of Edward IV. when Richard Neville, the great Earl of Salisbury, in right of

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his wife Anne, sister and sole heiress of Henry Duke of Warwick, being slain in Barnet field, fighting against the King, this office was lost and annexed to the Crown. Since that period Sheriffs have been appointed annually, to whose jurisdiction the management of the Castle appertains, by virtue of their office.

This prison in 1783 was unfortunately visited with the fatal gaol distemper, after which it underwent a complete repair and reform, adopting as much as possible the humane system of the philanthropic Mr. Howard, as it respected the health and accommodation of the prisoners. The necessary additions and reforms were began in 1784, since which time they have expended 4283l. 17s. 10d. in erecting a new Penitentiary House, eighteen new cells, and cells for solitary confinement of prisoners, a room and oven for purifying them and their apparel, three pumps, in separate courts, with excellent spring water, and a large cold bath, supplied from the great reservoir of the city, supplying also the great court of the prison, and thence passes through other offices into the Severn.

A distinct building, with a court, water, and separate apartments, is provided for women, felons, and debtors. There are also hospital wards for six men and six women, and the same number in the House of Correction; so that both prisons may now be considered as every way suitable and convenient to the various purposes for which they are intended.

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It was anciently a large and magnificent structure, but little now remains as a testimonial of its former greatness; part of the rampire is not yet removed, and the exterior ditch may be easily traced, extending towards Edgar's Tower. This stately portal is the finest remnant of antiquity in the whole city. It formed the main entrance into the Castle, and appears, by the style of building, to have been coeval with the church of St. Helen's, being erected, according to an inscription on it, about the year 975. In the front are the statues of King Edgar and his two Queens, though much mutilated by time. The situation of this Castle was very select, being placed contiguous to the banks of the river, and admirably adapted for defence. The artificial mount, on the summit of which was the keep of this ancient fortress, is now converted into a pleasant garden.

THE CITY GAOL,

Situate in Friars Street, is a place of great antiquity, being, according to Leland, used as a religious house for the Grey, or Franciscan Friars, as early as 1266. This obnoxious order of enthusiasts first made their appearance in England about 1224, and were divided into seven districts, each governed by a provincial: one of these is said to have been at Worcester, and had the care of many other priories. This building is the most entire remains of an ancient religious house of any in the city; indubitable

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marks of which appear from the carvings in the refectory; and those apartments which were once set apart for devotional exercises, are now the receptacle of criminals and debtors. It is encompassed to the east by the ancient city wall. Many human bones have been dug out of its present garden, originally its burying-ground, part of which is now a skinner's yard. After its suppression, it was granted by Henry VIII. to the bailiffs and citizens of Worcester, and having been put in complete repair and safety, has been since used as our city prison.

TRADE AND MANUFACTURES.

In a well-governed city nothing tends so much to increase both the number of inhabitants and the general wealth of the place, as the industry of the people, and the multiplicity of its trades and manufactures: for as the works of industry are more valuable than the mere productions of nature, so more inhabitants are supported by the former, than by the immediate produce of the latter; hence we find manufacturing towns more populous than others not possessed of equal commercial advantages. England, indeed, has been long noted for the industrious spirit of its inhabitants, and a certain perseverance requisite to bring manufactures to a pitch of perfection; and it will be found by the sequel that the city of Worcester is by no means deficient in supporting the national character.

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That it was formerly a place of great trade, appears from the account of Leland, who lived in the time of Henry VIII. "The wealthe of "Worcestre standeth most by Draperinge, and "no towne of England, at the presente tyme, "maketh so much cloth yearly as this towne "doth." The society of Broad Cloth Makers of Worcester was incorporated 2nd of Henry VIII. from which time till the end of the last century that trade was very considerable, so as to employ, at one time, between six and seven thousand persons within the city, and twice that number in the various branches of the manufactory carried on in the neighbourhood. The manufacturers finding their trade so rapidly increasing, presumed too much upon the strength of their credit. They overstretched their cloths so much, that when they came to Blackwell-Hall, a deficiency was always discovered in the measure. Such practices seldom succeed, particularly where there are so many competitors for public favor, in the same line; and it has been justly observed, that trade is a tender plant which, if not cultivated with care in one place, will naturally move to a more grateful soil; the workmen persisting also in making a thick heavy cloth, instead of one that was light and spongy, the merchants of Leghorn and Smyrna withheld their orders; and thus dwindled away one of the finest branches of the commerce of Great Britain, through the medium of which Worcester had extended its trade to the most distant parts.—To this succeeded

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THE GLOVE TRADE,

Which has been brought of late years into great repute and perfection, and is now carried on in a very large scale, the greatest part of it being for exportation. There are about seventy masters, and the number of persons employed on this extensive manufactory, may be fairly estimated at about six thousand. This trade is not only beneficial to the city and its vicinity, but also affords employment to numbers of industrious poor in the parishes of Ledbury, Cradley, Bosbury, and various other parts of the adjoining county of Hereford. A spirit of improvement has appeared in this trade, in common with the other British manufactures, and the beauty and excellent quality of the Worcester gloves have not only attracted the attention of home consumers, but have likewise acquired an excellence in the estimation of foreign merchants, which we have a right to presume will not only support the present demand, but will add very considerably to the commercial advantages of this city.

CHINA MANUFACTORY.

This manufactory was first established in the year 1751, by the late Dr. Wall and others, under the firm of the Worcester Porcelain Company. In the year 1783, the whole was purchased by Thomas Flight, Esq. of Hackney,

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Middlesex; from whom it was conveyed to the present proprietors, Messrs. Barr, Flight, and Barr, who have engaged in this arduous undertaking with the laudable ambition of not only improving the strength and colour of the ware, but also of giving the most liberal encouragement to ingenious painters, in emblematical composition, and landscape. In 1805 the improvements made in the texture of the ware, and the beautiful paintings now executed, have been so astonishingly great as to rival the Royal China Manufactories of the French, who, for many years before the present war, exported to this country, immense quantities of their finest china ware; and it is highly creditable to the enlightened taste of the British Nobility and Gentry, that they have given the proprietors of this manufactory, every possible encouragement to persevere in their exertions, to render it an ornament to their country, and an increasing advantage to many industrious, and ingenious artists.

In 1788 it fortunately received the distinguished honor of being personally examined by their Majesties and Princesses, during their visit here at that time, who honored it with peculiar marks of approbation; and Worcester has thence the gratification of having the first Royal China Manufactory, known in these kingdoms, established within its walls. It is situate in Palace Row, near the banks of the Severn, and was formerly a large mansion house, but is now converted into a busy scene of art and industry.

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The building is extensive and elegant, and the whole of the work is well worth the inspection of the ingenious traveller. Cards of admission to view the manufactory, may be had on application at their elegant retail warehouse, No. 45, High Street.

Another equally large and extensive China Manufactory has been established in this city, since the above, by Messrs. Chamberlain and Co. in Diglis, whose truly elegant retail warehouse and shew rooms, near the Cross, proves not only an additional ornament to the city, but evinces a considerable degree of spirit in its opulent proprietors, in executing a plan, evidently formed with correct taste, discriminating judgment, and good ability.

This more recent establishment has also experienced royal patronage and favor. Its productions being executed in a masterly style of elegance and perfection, little, if any, inferior to those of our more senior manufactory, while the increasing demands made for their articles evince the just estimation in which they are deservedly held.

HOP TRADE.

The Hop Market, which was first erected as a Work-house for the poor, situate almost in the centre of the city, is a large and regular pile of building, the interior of which forms an extensive quadrangle, surrounded by well-built

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warehouses; the rents of which, under the direction of the guardians of the respective parishes in the city, amounting to about 350l. per annum, are applied to the laudable purpose of supporting the House of Industry. The Hop trade in this city is conducted on an extensive scale, and during the season, is the most considerable market in the kingdom for that essential article, three-fifths of the produce of the surrounding plantations being, on an average, brought here for sale. The number of pockets sold, for the last ten years, may tend to shew the regular supply this market affords.

Years.	*Pockets.*	*Years.*	*Pockets.*
1796 -	21,519	1801 -	46,228
1797 -	21,319	1802 -	13,596
1798 -	16,370	1803 -	38,851
1799 -	13,023	1804 -	37,542
1800 -	13,375	1805 -	11,824

so that the average number sold, agreeable to the annexed statement, has been 23,455 pockets per annum; the prices of which are so extremely precarious that it would be futile to make any calculation on that head.

THE DISTILLERY;

An undertaking brought to its full maturity by the late Mr. Alderman Williams, situated at the south-east end of Turkey, near the Severn, has long carried on a very successful and extensive trade, paying, according to the information I

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have received, about 700l. per week, duty. It is now conducted by his son, who is sole proprietor of the concern.

The Carpet Manufactory, which a few years since formed a considerable object in the trade of this city, is now so much reduced, that we find little done in that branch of business at the present period.

Worcester is well accommodated with good and respectable Inns, of which the following are the principal: namely the Hop Pole and the Star and Garter, in Foregate Street; the Crown and the Unicorn, in Broad Street; all of which are posting houses, are both spacious and elegant receptacles for the nobleman, or man of business, who may here be sumptuously entertained, and their generous steeds carefully attended to. Few places are so well supplied in this respect as Worcester, and, while it reflects a credit to the city, it no doubt proves a source of considerable emolument to the vigilant and spirited landlord.

PUBLIC WALKS.

The walks near the city of Worcester are numerous, and placed in a variety of favorite situations; that which may be deemed the principal, lies parallel with the Foregate Street, called Sansom Fields Walk, shaded on each side by some fine trees; adjoining, are several foot-paths through rich pasture grounds, for which the public are indebted to the taste and

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liberality of the late Sir Charles Trubshaw Withers. There are many other select walks, such as near Perry Wood, the scite of the engagement between King Charles and Cromwell, from whence is a fine view of the city, and as rich a prospect, of the extensive kind, as any in the county; another over Rainbow Hill, or in the Moors, near Pitchcroft, where the annual Races are held, are close to the city, with various beautiful walks in many directions on the margin of the river, one of which, towards the south, is remarkably pleasant, extending unto the plantations made by the late J. Berwick, Esq. where the Teme forms a junction with the Severn. In addition to these, the Foregate Street itself, by being well paved and sufficiently broad, so as to admit of a free circulation of air, seems to be generally resorted to as a fashionable promenade. During the summer months, there are opened, on the west side of the Severn, some pleasant gardens, called the Porto Bello gardens, which, by being placed on an eminence contiguous to the banks of the river, command a delightful view of Worcester, and the circumjacent country: great pains have been taken to bring them to their present flourishing state, and, as much company frequent them, it will doubtless answer the expectation of the proprietor. A boat is always ready at the ferry. There are also many other public places of amusement, at easy distances from the city; to enumerate which, singly, may perhaps be deemed superfluous.

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THE SEVERN.

The river Severn, from which Worcester derives such considerable advantages, takes its name from Sabi, and Sabrin, sandy; from the muddiness of the water after rain: in Latin Sabrina, in Welsh Ha au rian, signifying the queen or chief river. It rises in Plinlymmon mountain, in Montgomeryshire, a few hundred yards on the other side of which the Wye takes its origin. It enters the county a little above Bewdley, receives the Stour at Stourport, then the Salwarp, out of which, and the adjacent canal, it has the overflowings of the salt springs; and soon after the Beverborn, or Otter River, there being formerly great numbers of those animals in that small stream. Passing then under the pleasant seat of Hallow, and adding considerably by its meandring course, to the fine views from that place, as well as the different elegant mansions on Henwick Hill, it approaches the city of Worcester in a fine broad stream. This river is particularly noticed for three sorts of fish, viz. Salmon, Shad, Lamprey and Lampern.

In a commercial point of view the Severn is of the utmost importance to this city, being connected with all the northern counties by the canal going from Stourport, and by its junction with the Thames, and through the Stroud cut it has an immediate connection with the capital,

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and various other parts of the kingdom. It is navigable for vessels of one hundred and ten tons to Glocester, eighty to Tewkesbury, seventy to Worcester, sixty to Bewdley and Stourport, forty to Shrewsbury, and of thirty to Pool Quay, though during floods it is capable of carrying vessels of more considerable burthen.

PAROCHIAL ACCOUNT
OF
WORCESTER.

This Bishoprick was founded by Ethelred, King of the Mercians, at the request of Osric, a petty Prince of the Mercians, anno 680, and taken out of the Diocese of Lichfield; Tadfrith, or Tadfrid, being appointed the first Bishop; before that time, namely, from about 657, one Bishop presided over the whole kingdom of Mercia. The diocese was formerly of much larger extent than at present; Glocester, which belonged to it, was erected into a Bishopric in 1541, and the following year the King appointed a Bishop of Bristol, part of which diocese, viz. the Deanery of Bristol, likewise belonged to the see of Worcester.

At present the Bishopric of Worcester contains almost the whole of the county, except a few parishes and chapelries in the diocese of Hereford; also about a third part of Warwickshire; the parishes of Brome and Clent, in Staffordshire; and Halesowen, in Shropshire.

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It is divided into nine Deaneries, in which is contained one hundred and sixteen Rectories, seventy-nine Vicarages, twenty-nine Curacies, and forty-one Chapels.

The fixed rents of this Bishopric, clear of all deductions, may be stated, on the average, to amount to about three thousand pounds per annum.

Among its prelates, it has been observed that there has been one Pope, four Saints, seven Lord High Chancellors, eleven Archbishops, two Lord Treasurers, one Chancellor to the Queen, one Lord President of Wales, one Vice President, and even by the confession of the satirical Pope, one unsullied mitre—the pious Dr. Hough, to whom Lyttelton alludes, in these lines:—

> Good Worcester thus supports his drooping age,
> Far from court flatt'ry, far from party rage;
> He who, in youth, a tyrant's frown defy'd,
> Firm and intrepid on his country's side,
> Her boldest champion then, and now her mildest pride.

THE BISHOP's PALACE

Is placed in a charming situation on the eastern bank of the Severn, on a fine eminence contiguous to that river; it was surrounded with embattled walls by Bishop Giffard, had many additions made to it by succeeding prelates, and was newly fronted by Bishop Stillingfleet; the interior was much beautified in 1788, for the

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N.E

Worcester Cathedral

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reception of his present Majesty and Royal Family, whose residence, during their stay in this city, was at this palace. The structure is ancient and commodious, and many parts of the old building still remain, though much altered by improvements in the modern taste; the east front is neat and regular; the west, towards the river, is a pretty mixture of gothic solemnity with the works of later date; and though modelled at different periods, has, notwithstanding, many apartments furnished with much elegance; the gardens, which are laid out on a gentle declivity near the water, command a delightful view of the Severn, and a fine range of country terminated by the Malvern Hills, and other fine distant objects.

THE CATHEDRAL.

The first mention of this Cathedral, we find in a charter of King Ethelred, in 743, where it is called Ecclesia in Monasterio Sanctæ Mariæ; from that period little mention is made of it till the destruction of the city by Hardicanute's soldiers. Though the ravages in stone buildings might have been possibly soon repaired, yet notwithstanding the care of succeeding Prelates in beautifying the structure, external violence, or the relapse of time, had made such impressions in the fabric, that in the year 1084, Bishop Wulstan was obliged to rebuild it from the ground; the whole of which, together with the Monastery, is said to have been finished in

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the space of five years. It is recorded of this pious prelate, by William de Malmsbury, that upon seeing the workmen employed in pulling down the old church, he wept; one of his attendants expostulating with him, reminded him that he ought rather to rejoice, as he was preparing in the room of it, an edifice of greater splendour, and more proportioned to the enlarged number of his Monks; he replied, "I think far "otherwise; we poor wretches destroy the "works of our forefathers only to get praise to "ourselves: the happy age of holy men knew "not how to build stately churches, but under "any roof they offered themselves living tem-"ples unto God, and by their examples excited "those under their care to do the same; but we, "on the contrary, neglecting the care of souls, "labour to heap up stones."

Though this Cathedral suffered considerably from repeated fires, yet, as after the Norman conquest most scientific improvements were made by the Ecclesiastics, we find that the reparations of this noble fabric were generally conducted with great skill by the various Bishops.

Upon the death of King John (who, as the ancient annalists state, was buried anno Dom. 1216, "in the middle of the choir of this church, "before the high altar, between the Saints "Oswald and Wulstan,") we find that the liberties and privileges granted to this church were very considerably augmented.

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In 1158 King Henry II. kept his Christmas here, as Henry I. had done before him, and held here the great assembly of the nation, being attended in the Cathedral with all the dignity and splendour of royalty; he sat, during the time of divine service, with his crown on his head, but the ceremony finished, he placed it on the altar, as a sign of his humility, saying, "that God "alone was worthy of the crown." This act seemed to proceed from a real and sincere motive, for it is recorded that he never wore it afterwards. Soon after this period, as Camden relates, it was newly fronted from the foundation, and soon after the tower was rebuilt. In 1301 Bishop Giffard beautified the pillars of the choir and chapels, and aisles surrounding, by interlaying small pillars of grey marble fastened together with rings of copper gilt. Between 1217 and 27, Bishop Cobham vaulted the north aisle of the church, and Bishop Wakefield afterwards lengthened the body of it, by the addition of two arches, and built the beautiful north porch.

From this time, we find little remarkable till the civil war, during the reign of Charles I. Worcester being at that time taken by the Parliamentary army, the Cathedral suffered greatly*.

* An Extract from "A Short View of the late "Troubles in England," said to be written by Sir William Dugdale, may serve to convey some idea

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Although this Cathedral has undergone considerable mutilations, it is at this time a fair and magnificent structure; and though it shews a great variety of style, by being erected at different periods, it presents, however, a grand and venerable appearance: the general plan is that of the double cross, a mode generally used in the construction of Cathedrals, and in which, both the strength and grandeur of the gothic taste is eminently conspicuous. The improvements lately made, both in the interior and exterior, by the Dean and Chapter, do honor to their liberality; and the whole of the building may now be deemed worthy of minute attention.

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of what was done in the Cathedral. "When the "whole army from London, under the Earl of "Essex, came to Worcester, the first they did was "the profanation of the Cathedral, destroying the "organ, breaking in pieces divers beautiful win- "dows, wherein the foundation of that church was "lively historified with painted glass, and barba- "rously defacing divers fair monuments of the "dead; and as if this were not enough, they brought "their horses into the body of the church, keeping "fires and courts of guard therein, making use of "the quires and side aisles, with the font, in a most "indecent manner; also, to make their wickedness "the more complete, they rifled the Library, with "the records and evidences of the church, tore in "pieces the bibles and service books pertaining to "the quire, putting the surplices and other vest- "ments upon their dragooners, who rode about the "streets with them."

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MONUMENTS.

The following Monuments appear most worthy of attention.

In the choir, near to the ascent of the high altar, is the monument, or tomb, of King John (who died in 1216), reckoned the most ancient one extant in England, at least of all the lineal ancestors of his present Majesty, from the time of William the Conqueror. That of Henry I. which is the only one known of an earlier age, lies involved in that chaos of ruins, the abbey of Reading. King John's body was conveyed hither from Newark, by the Earl of Pembroke. His effigy lies on the tomb crowned; in his right hand is part of a sceptre, in his left a sword lying by him, whose point is received into the mouth of a couchant lion at his feet; on each side of him are cumbent images of the Bishops, St. Oswald and St. Wulstan, represented as censing him. King John died the 19th of October, 1216, in the 51st year of his age and 18th of his reign. His bowels were taken out, and buried at Croxton Abbey; his body, according to his desire, was interred in this Cathedral, having on a monk's cowl, deemed in those days a good passport through purgatorial regions. This sacred envelope appeared to have fitted the head very closely, and had been tied or buckled under the chin with straps, parts of which remained.

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The general accepted opinion concerning this tomb, was, that it was only a sarchophagus, erected to the memory of King John, and that his body was buried in another part of the Cathedral; so that the perplexities which attended this monarch through life, seem to have taken up their habitation with him in his grave; but on proceeding in the repairs of the Cathedral, July 17, 1797, the following remarkable circumstance occurred. The tomb commemorating the interment of King John, was supposed not to cover his remains; it was, therefore, proposed to remove it to a more convenient place; but to the astonishment of the workmen, a stone coffin was discovered at the bottom, level with the floor, containing the remains of the King, which, on being examined by an eniment surgeon of this city, it was found, that the body was adjusted in the stone coffin precisely in the same form as the figure on the tomb. The skull was turned upwards; the lower part of the frontel bone was much decayed by time. The upper jaw contained four teeth, but the lower jaw, which was separated from the skull, did not contain any. Some grey hairs were discernable under the covering of the head; the bones of the arms were separated from the body, but lay nearly in their proper situations. The bones of the ribs, hips and thighs, were much covered with dust, and the foldings of the decayed robe were not clearly distinguishable. The bones of the toes were in good preservation, more particularly those of the right foot, on two

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or three of which the nails were still visible. the rest of the bones, more especially of the lower extremities, were nearly perfect, and on the whole, appeared to have laid as they might naturally have done, in their quiescent progress through the various stages of decay and dissolution. Some large pieces of mortar were found on and below the abdomen; and a vast quantity of the dry skins of maggots were dispersed over the body.

The dress in which the body of the King was found, was a robe, reaching from the neck nearly to the feet; it had some of its embroidery still remaining, near the right knee. It was, apparently, of crimson damask, and of strong texture; its colour, however, was so totally discharged, from the effect of time, that it is but conjecturally, it can be said to have been of any but what has now pervaded the whole, namely, a dusky brown. The cuff of the left arm, which had been laid on the breast, remained: In that hand a sword, in a leather scabbard, had been placed, parts of which, much decayed, were found at intervals down the left side of the body, and to the feet; as were also parts of the scabbard, but in a much more perfect state than those of the sword. The legs had on a sort of ornamental covering, which was tied round at the ancles, and extended over the feet, where the toes were visible through its decayed parts; the string about the left ancle still remained. The upper part of those coverings could not be traced, and it is undecided whether they should

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be termed boots, or similar to modern pantaloons.—The coffin is of the Higley stone of Worcestershire: the body measured five feet six inches and a half long.

Such was the state in which the body of that monarch was found, whom history and experience has handed down to us, as having done more in the political world, for the Constitution of England, towards the emancipation and liberties of a brave people, from the iron hand of power, than could have been wrested from Kings more just, more wise, and more magnanimous.

Under the first arch, between the pillars on the north side, is a handsome monument, erected by Bishop Thornborough fourteen years before his death. On the tomb is his statue, in his episcopal robes, and his hands elevated, as in prayer.

Opposite to this, is a fine monument of Dean Eedes, on which his figure is represented cumbent, his head resting on a double pillow, and his hands joined in the gesture of prayer; at his feet a lion.

On the west wall of this aisle, are the following Monuments.

John Gauden, Bishop of Worcester: in a concave oval, a half length figure of this prelate

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of the size of life, is introduced, holding in his right hand a book, supposed to be meant for the Icon Basilike Also monuments of Bishops Stillingfleet, Fleetwood, and Blandford.

At the east end of the north aisle, is a very beautiful monument, to the memory of Mrs. Margaret Rae; it is composed of various coloured marble, and enriched with a profile bust of the lady, on an oval tablet.

Under the second window, on the floor, lies a stone coffin of a lady, her figure is lying thereon; on her head is a coronet, at her feet a bracket formed of foliage, her right hand lying on her breast is bare, her left, has on a glove, in which she also holds the other, and is laid over her body; which form, according to the ritual of marriage, signifies a maiden designed for the nuptial state; but who she was, is not known.

Near this is an ancient tomb of a Knight of the Holy Voyage, armed in mail, with a round helmet and surcoat, his right hand on his sword, partly drawn; on his left a long pointed shield; his legs laid across, and at his feet a lion; over this tomb, before its removal, were the arms of Beauchamp, from whence it was concluded, it might be Sir James Beauchamp.

Under the easternmost arch of the north wall of the choir, parallel with the altar, is the tomb of a prelate, represented in his sacred vestments, but much defaced, his head on a

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double cushion, supported by angels, and at his feet two lions; the prelate it was designed for, if he were not Walter de Cantelupe, is unknown.

Under another arch of the same wall, is the tomb of John de Constantius, Bishop of Worcester, represented mitred and vested, his hands raised, as giving a benediction, his head supported by two angels, and at his feet a lion.

Against the north wall of the Bishop's Chapel, is a handsome tomb of Bishop Parry, with a statue of him recumbent and praying; over the arch, supported by pillars, are figures of time and death.

Under a monumental arch, in the south aisle, is the tomb of the Countess of Surrey, represented lying thereon; several escutcheons of arms are dispersed about her; the whole of the figure has peculiar ease and elegance. Adjoining to this is the tomb of Bishop Godfrey Giffard, who died in 1301, and who lies interred beneath it; this tomb was prepared before his death. The figure of the prelate is laid upon the tomb pontifically habited and mitred; over his head is a richly ornamented gothic canopy, in the pediment of which angels are placed to guard his repose; his shoes are studded on the tops with jewels, sculptured upon them. The sides of the tomb are uniformly and richly ornamented with saints, martyrs and apostles, seated in quatrefoils, the spandrells of which

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are filled with heads of angels. The style and fashion of this tomb bespeak it a work of superior excellence, and worthy the taste of its founder and possessor.

On the floor, on the left entrance, is the stone coffin of Philip Hawford, the last abbot of Evesham, who died A. D. 1557; his effigy lies on the coffin, in the robes of an abbot, his head mitred and supported by angels, at his feet a lion; his right hand is held up, as blessing; in his left is a staff. He is represented as having his gloves on, and on the back of each a jewel of a large size sculptured on the stone.

The next is a handsome raised altar tomb of Dean Willis, president of St. John's College, Oxford; who died 1596. On his tomb was an inscription in brass, stolen away before 1641. The arms of the deanry of Worcester and St. John's College, with his own arms, are also on his tomb. A MS. note by Browne Willis, in vol. i. p. 658 of his Cathedrals, says, "This "tomb at Worcester was repaired by my greatly "importuning it, and promise to give somewhat "to it, if desired, on coming to Worcester; "but this was never demanded, and so the "guinea saved. B. W."

Monuments in the Choir.

On the north side of the altar is a very uncouthly compounded monument of Bishop

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Bullingham. His figure is laid on the tomb, his head rested on a book, and the upper part of his body, with his arms, appear in one opening of the wall, and his legs in the other; before the figure is a tablet with an inscription, &c. placed contrary to all armorial etiquette. In this state lies the good Bishop, with his hands elevated, as if imploring a release from the barbarians who surround him: over his head, on a stone tablet, is an inscription from "the Prophecie of Esai, the 40th chap." viz. "All fleshe is grass, and all the goodliness "thereof as the floure of the fielde."

In a space near the altar lies interred the body of William the gallant Duke of Hamilton, who was slain at the famous battle of Worcester, in 1651. The wound which occasioned his death was received in one of his legs, a little below the knee, by a slug shot, which shattered the bone so fatally, as wholly to disable him from keeping the field, and he was forced to retire into the town, where he fell into the enemy's hands. He was lodged at the Commandery, and Cromwell sent his own Surgeon, Trappam, to wait upon him, who assured him there was no hazard. Two days after Sir Robert Cunningham, the King's Physician, being found among the prisoners, was brought to him, who told him, that from the great loss of blood, nothing but an amputation afforded a probability of his recovery. Trappam's opinion had, however, so encouraged the Duke to save so severe an operation, that death alone could

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extinguish. At length, finding his strength fail, and feeling himself gradually declining, he sent his last thoughts to his lady, written with his own hand, Sep. 8, 1651, and in a short time after expired, in the 31st year of his age.

On the south side of the choir, parallel with the altar, is the chapel of Prince Arthur, elder brother of King Henry VIII. and in this elegant mausoleum is the tomb in which the body of the Prince is deposited, composed of marble throughout, decorated with the arms of England and France, quarterly, painted on the several dies of its sides, and ends in quatrefoils; and on the verge of its covering stone the original inscription has been restored, as follows: "Heere "lyeth buried Prince Arthur, the first be- "gotten sonne of the righte renowned King "Henry the Seventhe, which noble Prince de- "parted out of this transitory life, at the castle "of Ludlowe, in the Seventeenthe yeere of "his father's raygne, and in the yeere of oure "Lorde God, one thousonde five hundred and "two." The heart of the Prince was buried in the chancel of the church of Ludlow. The heart was some years since taken up, in a silver box, and was found to be double, or, as it is there called, twynney: the box was embezzled by the sexton, who was punished for the breach of trust by a dismissal from his place.

In the great cross aisle, against the east wall, is a most elegant and superb monument of Bishop Hough. He is represented of the

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size of life, habited in his robes, which are disposed in a bold, free and graceful manner, and seated in an easy dignified attitude, in a reclined posture, on a sarcophagus formed of black marble, with yellow veins beautifully dispersed over its surface; his right elbow resting on some books, and his hands joined, as in the act of devotion; the countenance highly expressive of quick sense and religious hope, meek yet animated; and if an image of the piety of his mind may be attempted to be drawn from that faithful index, it may be said that in the communion this revered patriarch of our religion seems to hold with his Maker (for he looks beyond this world), he appears to have newly "heard the voice from heaven, saying, blessed "are the dead which die in the Lord;" and gratefully to feel the comforting inference, that "he should rest from his labour." Beneath, to the right of the prelate, is the figure of Religion, having in her right hand the Bible open, her left supporting drapery falling from the Bishop; this attitude is amazingly easy, her aspect is sweet and complacent, yet tempered with concern, as though she felt the removal of an advocate whom she had tried and approved. Opposite the figure of Religion, is seated a naked boy weeping, his left hand employed in rubbing his eyes; love bewailing the separation of a tender pair, is in this figure finely imaged. The right hand of the little genius supports an oval of black marble, on whose plane is a profile head of the Bishop's lady. To use an animated expression, which the object may well excuse,

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the larger figures of this sculptured pile have an air of life, and seem to want nothing but the vital fluid, and the Almighty's breath; for mind and sentiment were certainly never eliciated from marble with more forcible effect, than is found in this admirable production of modern art. Its height is about twenty-four feet.

Opposite to this is a very handsome monument of Sir Thomas Street, Knight. It is embellished with an urn, and his coat of arms. A boy is represented displaying the cap of liberty; to these enrichments are added the insignia of justice.

On the east wall of the south transept, is a magnificent monument of Bishop Maddox, a venerable prelate, equally illustrious for his various writings, as for being a patron of merit, and a zealous supporter of every useful charity. Upon it is a figure of conjugal fidelity, as large as life; she is leaning in a melancholy posture, with one hand resting upon an hymeneal torch inverted; in a compartment under, is a fine piece of sculpture, admirably representing the parable of the good Samaritan.

Beneath, to the right, is the monument of Bishop Johnson, with an excellent bust by Nollekins, esteemed a great likeness.

On the north side, is the tomb of Sir John Beauchamp, of Holt, on which lies his effigy in complete polished armour, with that of his

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lady; his figure has on a pointed helmet; plated shoes; a headless animal at his feet. Under his head an helmet, crowned, out of which issues a swan's head and neck, with the two wings. The lady's figure has on a loose mantle, &c. her head resting on a swan, and supported by angels.

Opposite to the great north entrance of the church, is a monument of Mrs. Cecil Warmstrey; she is represented in sculpture, wrapt in her widow's veil, cumbent, with her head leaning on her right hand. The muscles of the body are admirably well expressed; the whole intimating the most piteous dejection, and emaciating grief; on the top, two figures are seated weeping.

Under the fifth window, within an arch of the wall, is a plain tomb, over the renowned Judge Littleton, a Justice of the Common Pleas in the reign of King Edward the Fourth. On a brass plate on the top, was a figure of a Judge in his robes, which was torn away in the civil war by Cromwell's soldiers.

The stalls in the choir, in number fifty-two, were made in 1397. The stone pulpit is well worth notice, being of an octagonal figure, most elegantly cut in the gothic mode, having a curious representation of the new Jerusalem, carved in the same durable material. Over the altar is a beautiful copy of the Descent from the Cross, by Reubens. The Bishop's throne is a

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work in the old taste, ornamented with a variety of emblematical devices. The organ consists of nine stops, of which the trumpet stop is allowed to be the finest in the kingdom.

DEAN AND CHAPTER.

The revenues and manors of the ancient Priory of Worcester, were granted at the dissolution to the Dean and Chapter, by Henry VIII. whose foundation charter is dated January 24, 1541-2, for the endowment of a Dean, ten Prebendaries, ten Minor Canons, ten Lay Clerks, ten Choristers, two Schoolmasters, forty King's Scholars, and many other inferior attendants, or servants of the church.

Of the ten Prebends in the Cathedral church of Worcester, nine are in the gift of the King, and one is annexed to the Margaret Professorship of Divinity, in Oxford University, by act of parliament, third of Charles I.

COLLEGE HALL.

Towards the end of the south cloister is the College Hall, a spacious and very lofty room, in which is held the triennial meeting of the three choirs of Worcester, Hereford, and Glocester, and is also used for the King's school, which was founded by Henry VIII. for forty scholars. Besides a regular preparation for the University, Music, Drawing, the French, Spanish, and Italian languages, and other fashion-

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able accomplishments, are taught by proper masters. Worcester, indeed, has been for a long time celebrated for the superiority of its schools; accordingly, at the present time, we find the Grammar School for boys, as well as the many Boarding Schools for young Ladies, in a high state of respectability.

AN ACCOUNT OF THE CHURCHES.

ST. HELEN's

Is said to be the most ancient church in Worcester; and Leland, in his Itinerary, strengthens the opinion, to which he adds, "that "it was a prebend before King Edgar's days, "to the Cathedral of Worcester." It is situate contiguous to the High-street, between the Guild-hall and the Cathedral; and is a rectory, in the gift of the Bishop. The building is old and venerable; the style in which it is erected, and the visible havoc which time has made upon its exterior, are evident marks of its great antiquity. It contains eight tunable bells, remarkable for the curious inscriptions upon them, referring to the principal victories obtained during the reign of Queen Anne.

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ST. ANDREW's,

A vicarage in the patronage of the Dean and Chapter of Worcester, is an old church, supposed to have been erected during the eleventh century, yet owing to the late improvements, the interior is at present handsome, and neatly furnished. But the chief object worthy of notice, is its beautiful spire, erected by one Nathaniel Wilkinson, a native of Worcester, where he lived as a common stone mason; and part of this spire was in the year 1801 taken down and rebuilt, at a very considerable expence. It is supposed to be the most perfect in the kingdom, and is not only a real ornament to the city, but also a convincing proof of the skill and ingenuity of the builder. Most other spires, particularly that of Salisbury, so generally admired, seem to terminate abruptly, when examined by the nicety of proportion; but this of St. Andrew's rises from its base, according to the most gradual and exact diminution, to the amazing small diameter of six inches and five eighths.

ST. PETER's.

This is a small but neat church, in the presentation of the Chapter of Worcester; the whole, particularly the tower, having been lately repaired and beautified. According to authentic records, it was founded about the year 1280, and appertained to the Abbey of Per-

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shore, till the period of the dissolution, in the time of Henry VIII.

ST. SWITHIN's.

This church is a rectory in the gift of the Dean and Chapter, situate in Church-street; and owing to its ruinous state, was rebuilt in 1736. It is a neat and handsome structure, the interior elegantly arranged, and is the only church in the city, besides the Cathedral, which has an organ and chimes, the former of which was the gift of William Swift, Esq.

ST. NICHOLAS,

A rectory, in the patronage of the Bishop of Worcester, placed in a conspicuous situation on the north-east side of the Cross. It is a handsome well built structure, in the modern style, the tower of which is much admired for the various modes of architecture used in its construction, and has certainly the grandest appearance of any other in the city.

ST. ALBAN's, ST. MICHAEL's, AND ST. MARTIN's,

Are inconsiderable; the former in the gift of the Bishop, the other two of the Dean and Chapter. They are mostly old buildings, except St. Martin's, which has been rebuilt in the modern manner.

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ALL SAINTS.

This is the most populous parish within the precincts of the city. The living is in the gift of the crown. The old church was so much damaged during the civil wars, that in the year 1742 it was found requisite to take it down, and rebuild it. It is situate nearly at the bottom of the Broad-street, is well pewed, has good light, and makes a decent and handsome appearance. This rectory was augmented in 1765, to the amount of 800l. whereof 600l. was given by Queen Anne's bounty, 100l. by the parish, and 100l. by the rector.

ST. CLEMENT's

Is a vicarage, in the gift of the Dean and Chapter of Worcester. The church was built by the Saxons, after they had fortified the city to prevent the incursions of the Britons. The republican army, when they took the city, destroyed the city wall, and also pulled down the tower of the church. It is at present a small ancient structure, and does not contain any thing worthy of observation or remark.

Besides the churches, there is in Sansome-street a neat chapel, for the use of persons professing the Roman Catholic religion.

The Presbyterian meeting house, at the west end of Angel-street.

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The Quakers' meeting house, in Sansome-street; and another in Friar-street.

The Anabaptists' meeting house, in Lowes-more.

The Methodists' meeting-house, in Pump-street.

Lady Huntingdon's chapel, in Birdport.

MONASTERIES.

That there were sundry monasteries founded in this city by the piety of our forefathers, appears manifest from the authority of many ancient records; though the most remarkable circumstances relating to them, are probably lost in so long a period of time.

The principal was that of St. Wulstan's, which was situate towards the south-east side of the city, and was endowed by the pious prelate of that name. It usually bore the name of the Commandery, from the title which its master assumed. Cardinal Wolsey had a bull from the Pope, authorising him to suppress this monastery, but he did not live to see it put in execution; the King upon his disgrace, having seized them all into his own hands, and afterwards gave the lands to the College of Christ Church Oxford, by lease from whom it was for a long time held by the Wylds, whose principal

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seat it was in this county. It is at present a fine old edifice, chiefly constructed with wood. The refectory, or great hall, is the principal of its remains, nearly of a square form, with the original door and staircase ; the windows, which are high and spacious, are filled with small panes of glass, on which are depicted various curious emblematical representations of birds, flowers, &c.

There were also many other monasteries, as St. Oswald's, that of the Grey or Minor Friars, Dominicans, Penitents, &c. but as the documents relating to these establishments may prove uninteresting, it will, doubtless, be better to abandon a mere recital of records, which would only tend to fill up the narrow limits of the present small treatise.

HOSPITALS.

Ancient hospitals were principally intended for the accommodation of pilgrims and poorer travellers on their journies, and with this view were built by the sides of great roads, and near the entrance of towns ; a few poor men were stationed in each, to do the offices of hospitality, and were handsomely paid out of the revenues of their foundations.

In a kingdom noted for the number of its charitable institutions, we find this city support the national character, by the numerous endowments of edifices, for the better maintenance of

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its poorer individuals—The following are the principal:

BERKELEY's HOSPITAL,

A regular and handsome building, in a square form, situate at the south-end of the Foregate-street; so called from being founded by Judge Berkeley, of Spetchley, for twelve poor men. It is a very neat structure of the kind, has a chapel in front, and a resident chaplain; in the centre is a well-executed figure of the pious founder.

ST. OSWALD's HOSPITAL

Is a very ancient foundation; perhaps it owes its origin to the Bishop whose name it bears, but was considerably augmented by Thomas Haynes, Esq. Serjeant of his Majesty's Chapel Royal, in 1622. It had been for many years deprived of its possessions, by a person who held them without any legal title; but Dr. Fell, Dean of Christ Church, laying the case before parliament, succeeded in the recovery of them. A new building with a chapel was erected, after all which, the revenues were found sufficient for the support of sixteen men, and twelve women.

Exclusive of these, there is Skeivring's Hospital, in the Tything, for six poor women—Inglethorpe's, near the Foregate-street, for eight men and one woman—The Trinity, endowed

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by Queen Elizabeth, for twenty-nine poor women—Nash's, in New-street, for eight men and two women—Wyatt's, in Friar-street, for six poor men—and many others upon a smaller scale; all tending to the same benevolent purpose, of providing for the helpless and infirm, as well as to assuage the distresses of honest poverty, and mitigate, in some measure, the awful visitations of providence.

EMINENT PERSONS,

Natives of Worcester.

Worcester has given birth to many eminent persons, both in literature and other departments. The chief writers are the following:

Hemingus, a monk of Worcester, who may be ranked among the ornaments of the city. His compilations towards the investigation of the history of the ancient see of Worcester, were selected with great care and industry, and, together with some extracts of the late Mr. Graves, were published by the celebrated antiquary, Mr. Herne, in 2 vols. 12mo.

William of Worcester, author of the Itinerary.

Senatus, surnamed *Bravonius*, who wrote the lives of St. Oswald and St. Wulstan.

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Florence of Worcester, who was a monk of the Priory, and greatly reverenced for his learning and piety.

John, Lord Somers, who filled with true honor the highest station in the law, and was constantly employed in the cause of liberty during the latter part of the reign of Charles II.

Mr. John Doharty, or *Dougharty,* a celebrated mathematician.

Dr. Thomas, grandson of the Bishop of that name. He wrote the Antiquities of the Priory of Malvern, &c.

Dr. Hicks, Dean of Worcester; much noted for the progress he made in the investigation of Gothic antiquities.

Dr. William Derham, born near Worcester; author of the two justly celebrated treatises, entitled Physico-Theology, and Astro-Theology.

Amongst the illustrious members of the cathedral, we may mention the following eminent Prelates: *Dr. Sandys, Dr. Whitgift, Dr. Prideaux, Bishop Gauden,* and *Dr Edward Stillingfleet,* the latter of whom was the author of Originis Sacræ, and other valuable works.

Other Eminent Persons.

Richard, Lord Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, was born in the city of Worcester, 1381. He

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assisted at the coronation of Henry IV. and gave conspicuous proofs of his courage at the battle of Shrewsbury; he attended King Henry V. in his expedition to France, and was present at the battle of Agincourt, where he behaved with astonishing bravery: after the death of that monarch he was appointed Regent of France, which he enjoyed only four years, dying in Normandy, A. D. 1439.

The Earl of Worcester, who was raised to that title by King Henry VI. and having passed through the highest posts of the realm, presents us with a striking instance of the vanity of worldly grandeur; for upon the restoration of Henry VI. he alone was sacrificed; and endeavouring to elude the search made for him, was discovered concealed on the top of a large tree near his mansion, taken to London, and beheaded on Tower Hill, in 1470.

Edward Kelly, an extraordinary character, who pretended to have the Grand Elixir, or Philosopher's Stone; he is reported to have broken his leg in climbing over a wall, at Prague, in Germany, where he was imprisoned for a chemical cheat put upon the Emperor, where he died in 1581.

John Wall, M. D. a man of fine genius and inestimable worth, to whom the Worcester China Manufactory is highly indebted, for the great improvements made in their materials by his knowledge of experimental chemistry: he died in 1776.

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Mr. T. White, an excellent Architect, who at the request of the Corporation, undertook to rebuild the Town Hall, which he performed so much to their satisfaction, that they settled upon him an annuity of 30*l.* a year: he died about the year 1738.

John Baskerville, one of the first Printers in the world, born in 1706. He spent much time and money before he could produce one letter to please himself, and his first attempt was a beautiful quarto edition of Virgil; he afterwards published numerous books, which are well known: he died in 1775.

REMARKABLE OCCURRENCES,

Relating to the City of Worcester.

1113.—Worcester was consumed by fire, when one monk and twenty inhabitants perished in the flames.

1283.—Great part of Worcester burnt down, and the Cathedral much injured.

1139.—The forces of the Empress Maude attacked the city, gained admittance, and immediately set fire to it, in several places; great part of it was consumed, and the whole rifled and plundered.

1149.—King Stephen took and burnt Worcester.

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1157.—Worcester was fortified by Hugh Mortimer, against King Henry II. but on the approach of the Royal forces, he submitted, and was pardoned.

1189.—Almost all Worcester destroyed by fire.

1202.—The Cathedral and adjacent offices, with great part of the city, were burnt.

1216.—When Lewis, eldest son of the King of France, was invited to the English throne, by the Barons, the leading men in Worcester declared for him.

1263.—The Earl of Derby and other Barons laid siege to and took the city of Worcester, rifled the citizens, and put some of the Jews to the sword.

1264.—King Henry III. was brought to Worcester by the Earl of Leicester, having fallen into his hands at the battle of Lewes.

1265.—Prince Edward, afterwards King Edward I. who was imprisoned with his father, in Hereford Castle, escaped to Worcester, where he assembled an army, defeated the Earl of Leicester at Evesham, and ultimately restored the captive Henry to his throne and kingdom.

1313.—A stone bridge first built across the Severn, at Worcester.

1342.—A plague broke out in Worcester.

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1349.—Another pestilence visited the city, very fatal to its inhabitants.

1401.—Worcester burnt and plundered by Owen Glendowr's troops, from whence Henry IV. drove them back to Wales.

1484.—A most wonderful flood of the Severn.

1534.—A great earthquake happened at Worcester, on the 15th day of September.

1637.—A destructive pestilence broke out in the city, which destroyed 1551 persons.

1672.—A great flood happened of the Severn.

1723.—The summer assizes of this year were the first held in the present Guildhall.

1757.—A stack of chimnies fell upon the roof of the *Nisi prius* bar, whilst the court was sitting, broke through the cieling, killed six men on the spot, and bruised many others; Sir J. E. Wilmot, the Judge, escaped unhurt.

1768.—Dec. 20. Two very smart shocks of an earthquake were felt in this city, between five and six o'clock in the evening.

1770, 1791, 1795. Three very high and alarming floods of the Severn, which did considerable damage.

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TOWNS, VILLAGES, AND SEATS,

In the Neighbourhood of Worcester.

In a work of this kind some account will doubtless be expected of the chief places worthy of notice in the vicinity; yet as brevity must be adhered to, it cannot be expected that particular details can be given, which would far exceed the narrow limits of the present small treatise.

The first place, therefore, we shall take notice of, is

STOURPORT,

Which is situated about ten miles up the current of the river Severn, where we see the rapid effects of industrious commerce. Some years ago this pretty town was almost a barren, sandy heath, till the junction of the Staffordshire Canal with the Severn was formed at this place, which, from an insignificant village, is now become a neat and handsome town; new buildings are continually springing up, and its wharfs, extensive bason, and busy traffic, present a lively picture of a little sea port.

The bason was opened in 1771, after an expence of 105,000*l*.

About a mile to the east is

HARTLEBURY CASTLE,

The residence of the Bishop of Worcester;

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a neat and uniform structure, seated in a beautiful part of the county, with extensive views, the whole well laid out, forming a very compleat and pleasing retreat. The original building was erected in the reign of Henry III. but demolished in that of Charles I. rebuilt afterwards, in a much more elegant manner, and is, at present, one of the handsomest episcopal palaces in the kingdom.

Hartlebury was given to the see of Worcester by Burthed, King of the Mercians, about the year 850; and during the reign of Henry III. the Castle was embattled and finished by Bishop Giffard. It was afterwards strengthened with a moat, and put in a posture of defence, sufficient to secure it from any sudden attack. During the great rebellion, Colonel Morgan summoned it, Captain Sandys being then Governor, with Lord Windsor, Colonel S. Sandys, one hundred and twenty foot, and twenty horse. It was at that time very strong, and had provisions for twelve months, but surrendered without firing a shot.

At some distance towards the south-east is

WARSLEY GREEN,

The mansion of J. Baker, Esq. which is of modern construction, elegantly furnished, and the rising plantations make a great addition to its beauty.

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A little to the west of Stourport is

ARLEY,

With a neat church, placed on an eminence, and contiguous to it the parsonage house, beautiful in its situation, and commanding a fine prospect. Between this and the river, was the fine old seat of the Mucklows, till about the year 1766, when it passed by marriage to the family of the Zacharys; near it has been lately erected a handsome structure of free-stone, beautiful in its design, though placed in a situation rather too low and confined.

Somewhat towards the south is

ASTLEY,

The seat of Moses Harper, Esq. and Glasshampton, commonly called Glasson, a small but pleasant village, and remarkable for containing a noble mansion, the seat of W. M. Moseley, Esq.

To the west of which, is

ABBERLEY LODGE,

The seat of R. Bromley, Esq. standing upon a very high hill, in a situation pleasant to the eye. It is a neat comfortable mansion, and contains an excellent collection of pictures, many of them by Reubens, Titian, Raphael, &c.

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Nearly opposite, is the celebrated

WOODBURY HILL,

Remarkable for an old entrenchment on the top, commonly called Owen Glyndwr's Camp, where the Welsh forces, with the French auxiliaries, were encamped, when in 1405, after plundering the city of Worcester, they were securing a retreat into Wales; Henry IV. followed them, and after an unsuccessful expedition into the mountains, returned to Worcester. The top contains, including the works, nearly thirty acres, commanding a general view of the country, in most directions.

Towards the east, in the fertile vale below, is

WITLEY.

This is the noble seat of Lord Foley, to whom the whole of the parish belongs. It is placed in a very select situation. The range of rooms are very superb, having recently received every addition of sumptuous elegance which modern artists can bestow. The adjacent park and grounds afford a great variety of landscape scenery, most delightfully diversified in the happiest style of nature, while art is constantly lending her aid, in adding to its natural beauties and improvements, now it is become the favorite residence of its owner.

The contiguous chapel was erected by the first Lord Foley and Lady Mary his widow,

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which is reckoned to be one of the handsomest in the kingdom.

From hence, towards the south-east, we come to

HOLT CASTLE.

Here was formerly a very strong castle, supposed to have been built by one of the D'Abitots, of which nothing now remains, except fragments of some old embattled walls; but they are so unconnected that it is impossible to form an idea of the original grandeur of the whole. Adjoining it, is a handsome seat, which was the ancient residence of the Beauchamps, purchased in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, by Sir Thomas Bromley, Lord Chancellor of England, and is mentioned by Leland as the castle in which King Richard II. held grand tournaments. The adjoining church is, according to Bishop Lyttleton, the most perfect relick of Saxon architecture in the whole county, the greatest part of it being in that style; the outward door, as also the arch of the chancel, with their low massy pillars, the capitals of which are ornamented with various emblems, are beautiful proofs of its great antiquity, and must have been erected long before the conquest.

On the opposite side of the river Severn, is

OMBERSLEY COURT,

An elegant mansion, erected by Baron Sandys, of Ombersley, which is a handsome building,

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contiguous to the high road. It is furnished with many good pictures; among them is a most capital one by Dobson, the subject of which is—'Colonel Russel, father of Lord Orford, having thrown up his commission in disgust, Prince Rupert and Colonel Murray, over a bottle, persuade him to resume it: Russel has his hand upon a flask, and appears very maudlin; Murray, with a sly look, short hair, Scotch complexion, and soldier-like face, is dipping a cockade in a glass of burgundy; intimating that he has drawn him in to accept the commission; Prince Rupert behind, fuddled.' The whole group exquisitely ludicrous, cost Lord Orford, to whom it first belonged, four hundred pounds.

A small distance to the east, is

WESTWOOD PARK.

Westwood, with its demesne lands, was granted by Henry VIII. to Sir John Pakington, Knight; in which descent it continues to the present period. The chief residence of this family was at Hampton Lovet, but that being damaged in the great rebellion, the mansion-house at Westwood (which had been erected in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, as a lodge or banquetting house) was considerably beautified, and from that time became the chief seat. This mansion is a fine specimen of the old taste, for it has remained without any material alteration or addition ever since the original foundation. Its situation is on a rising ground, enriched with

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an extensive park, well wooded with fine timber, to which a lake, covering nearly one hundred acres, is a great ornament. In a word, the richness of the wood, combining with the stateliness of the edifice, forms a picture of ancient magnificence unequalled by any thing in this county.

DROITWICH.

Wich, or Wiccia, was probably known to the Romans; it is sufficient however to ascertain its greatness and antiquity, to mention that it gave name to the whole county of Worcester. We find it mentioned as a populous town, in the Conqueror's general survey, and of considerable importance by its trade in salt, which, during the long period of so many successive centuries, has been constantly increasing. The town lies in a pleasant valley, between two hills, and is mostly built on the south bank of the Salwarp. It is a corporate body, and sent members to Parliament as early as twenty-sixth Edward I.

The salt works have within these late years been so considerably increased as to pay the annual duty of about 134,000l Since the last augmentation they have been stated to pay nearly 5000l. per week, which increases it to the almost incredible sum of 260,000l. per annum.

Following the course of the stream from Wich, we come to

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SALWARP,

A neat pleasant village, having some good mansions, among which, High Park, the seat of Philip Gresley, Esq. a beautiful modern building, placed on a fine ascent, is eminently conspicuous.

Approaching nearer the Severn,

HAWFORD

Presents itself on the road to Kidderminster, having many neat dwellings, commanding fine views over the vale below, in which the Droitwich canal meanders in a pleasing manner.

HINLIP

Lies a little to the left, on rising ground. This fine old mansion was built by John Habington, Cofferer to Queen Elizabeth, about the year 1572. Thomas Habington, his son, was engaged with others in the unsuccessful attempts to liberate Mary Queen of Scots, for which act he remained many years prisoner in the Tower of London. During the reign of James I. he was accused of having concealed in his house at Hinlip, sundry persons engaged in the Gunpowder Plot, and was condemned to die; but by the intercession of his father-in-law, Lord Morley, was pardoned, and after that lived in a retired manner at his seat at Hinlip, which, in its original state, was constructed in a very singular manner; many places of concealment

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very difficult to be discovered, being contrived in different parts of the building, with great skill and ingenuity. The access to some rooms was through chimnies, and others had trap doors communicating to back stair cases; the rooms on the outside appearing like chimnies, the whole building being planned in a very curious and uncommon manner.

There are some fine old pictures, and also a bust of Thomas Habington the antiquary, and of Mary his wife, daughter of Lord Morley and sister to Lord Monteagle, to whom she is supposed to have written the letter which discovered the Gunpowder Plot.

Nearer to Worcester is

ROSE PLACE,

Late the residence of Thomas Williams, Esq. a small but pleasant mansion, the prospect from which towards Worcester is very inviting.

Nearly contiguous, is

PERDISWELL,

The seat of H. Wakeman, Esq. It is an elegant modern building of free stone, pleasantly situate at a convenient distance from the high road. At the entrance into the grounds, on each side of the gate, are two carved figures, one representing Plenty, and the other Commerce or Navigation. The surrounding plantations are

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laid out in a good style, and having attained a great degree of perfection, add considerably, in point of rural beauty, to the vicinity of Worcester.

BEVERE.

The hamlet of Bevere is in a fine pleasant country. The air and soil are remarkably dry and healthy, the prospects agreeable, and the river Severn, which flows near it, both pleasant and advantageous. It has many neat mansions, among which is a handsome seat of the Rev. T. R. Nash, D. D. The opposite island of Bevere is remarkable for having afforded a retreat to the inhabitants of Worcester, in the reign of Hardicanute. It was again an asylum to many distressed inhabitants in the year 1637, when a pestilence broke out in the city.

A little lower down the river, is the beautiful seat of

HALLOW,

The residence of J. Sayer, Esq. it lies about a mile and a half from the city, situate on a fine salubrious eminence, rising gradually from the western bank of the Severn. The pleasure grounds are well disposed, and the views are various and pleasing; the prospect towards the north extends over the fine vale, through which the Severn meanders; towards the south, another charming view of the river presents itself, including the city of Worcester, and terminated

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in different directions by the Bredon and Cotswold hills. In the grounds is a chalybeate spring, approximating, according to experiment, much to the Cheltenham water.

Rather more than two miles to the west is

COTHERIDGE,

The mansion of Rowland Berkeley, Esq. the front of which is of modern construction, light and airy, and the views down the vale, through which the Teme winds its course, are pleasant, bounded towards the south and west by the fine object of the Malvern Hills; a long avenue of trees, nearly a mile in length, conducts from the road to the front of the House, which has a pleasing effect, and throws an agreeable variety over the general face of the country.

Thence continuing along the high road, we next come to

ST. JOHN's,

A neat little village, adjoining the boundaries of the city of Worcester, consisting principally of one street of well-built houses, is situate on high ground, commanding an extensive and beautiful view of Worcester, from which it is approached by the new road, the other part consists of the township of Wyck, and is situate towards the south west part of St. John's parish, containing sundry good mansions. In this parish

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was born Sir Reginald Bray, who, for his great services in defeating the ambition of Richard III. and uniting the houses of York and Lancaster, was raised by Henry VII. to the dignity of Lord Treasurer of England.

Rather more than a mile towards the south west, is

POWYCK,

An extremely pleasant village, in which many genteel families reside, and being placed on various small eminences, commands a variety of pleasing views. Most of the houses are very neat, amongst which the seat of William Russell, Esq. is the most conspicuous. Powick is noted for having a battle fought near it in 1642, known by the name of the skirmish of Wickfield, situate between Powyck bridge and the Cherry Orchard.

At some distance, on the other side of the Severn, is

CROOKBARROW HILL.

Here was a manor house moated round, but not very large. Immediately behind the house is Crookbarrow Hill, so called from Crug, in British, signifying a hill or barrow, which word often signifies a place fortified by the Romans, and was used in after ages for a burial ground, or other purposes. It consists of

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about six acres of an oval form, and considerable height; possibly the hill, being irregular by nature, was worked by art into its present form.

Towards the north east, is

SPETCHLEY.

This is a place of great antiquity, and gave name to a very ancient family, called therefrom De Spetchley. In the reign of Edward IV. it was purchased by Sir Thomas Lyttelton; it afterwards came to the Seldens, and from them to Rowland Berkeley, Esq. of the city of Worcester, who settled it on his second son, Sir Robert Berkeley, Knight, in which worthy family it continues to the present period. The contiguous church contains some handsome monuments, one of which is a very good figure of Judge Berkeley, who died in 1656; he is represented in his robes, holding a scroll in his right hand. This Robert, the pious founder of Berkeley's Hospital, in Worcester, gave his opinion, with the other Judges, in favour of the King's right to Ship-money, and was afterwards impeached by Parliament, fined 20,000l. and confined for some time in the tower of London. The parliamentary forces, not forgetful of his conduct, plundered his town residence; and a little before the battle of Worcester, the Scottish forces, though at that time in the King's service, burned his beautiful seat at Spetchley, as it lay in their way from White Lady Aston. Sir Robert, after that, caused his stables to be con-

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verted into a temporary dwelling-house, and lived with great splendour on the wrecks of his fortune.

ROUND HILL,

An eminence similar to Crookbarrow; on the summit is a small but neat mansion, commanding a very fine view of the extensive kind.

To the east, is

CHURCHILL,

Noted for its salubrious spring, to which formerly many from distant parts were used to resort: few however at present frequent them.

Going from hence, and leaving Norton Lodge, a pleasant rural villa, belonging to Thomas Bird, Esq. on the left, we come to

KEMPSEY,

Which lies on the high road, three miles south of Worcester, and is a great thoroughfare to Gloucester, Bath, Bristol, &c. It is a pleasant and handsome village, placed in a charming situation, at an easy distance from the river Severn. Most of the houses are neat modern structures, and the neighbourhood both fashionable and opulent. The Bishop of Worcester had formerly an elegant palace here, built many years before the conquest, and here the

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Barons lodged Henry III. after they had taken him prisoner at the battle of Lewes, in Sussex; but even the ruins are not now discernable. The church is a neat building, but contains nothing worthy of particular notice; at a small distance from it, some vestiges are still remaining of a Roman Camp, which appears to have been a place of great strength, thrown up by them when they invaded the territories of the Cornavii.

To the west, across the Severn, about two miles distance, is

MADRESFIELD.

This was the residence of the ancient family of the Bracys, and from them descended to the present family of the Lygons, who came in with the Conqueror. This habitation, the seat of Lord Beauchamp, whose Son, the Hon. W. B. Lygon, is one of our present representatives in Parliament for the County of Worcester, is a true picture of those ancient castles, which in the time of civil dissentions were the impregnable retreats of the Barons, before the general knowledge of gunpowder, and the use of artillery. It is surrounded with a deep fosse, the main entrance being over a bridge; the interior is, however, much modernized, and rendered comfortable and elegant. It commands a fine view of the long range of hills, the village of Malvern, and parts adjacent; the grounds contiguous to the mansion are enriched with some

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good wood scenery, rendered various by well-formed pieces of water, &c.

About a mile towards the south west, is the pleasant village of

MALVERN.

The Malvern Hills run from north to south, the highest point being about 1313 feet above the surface of the Severn at Hanley, and appear much more elevated than they really are, from their being placed in the centre of a level country, so that they strike the beholder with a degree of grandeur, which in a less favourable situation they would be divested of. The village of Malvern is delightfully situate on the eastern side of them, distant about eight miles from the city of Worcester.

The chalybeate spring, for which this place is so much noted, is described by the ingenious Dr. Wall, of Worcester:—"It approaches "nearly, in point of purity, to the Holywell "water: for two quarts of this are found to con-"tain only one grain of earth, one grain of iron, "and nearly the same quantity of a muriatic "salt, which grows moist in the air, and there-"fore appears to be bittern."

The Holywell, as the Doctor observes, rises on the eastern side, which he assures us furnishes water of the purest and most medicinal qualities. The spring at Malvern is perfectly transparent

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and cool, and the faculty reckon it good in many cases, especially where a disease has made no greater lodgment than to be merely cutaneous. The water exceeds most others in elementary purity, and as it respects the air, it is beyond contradiction, that Malvern and its environs enjoy a most pure and salubrious atmosphere.

The person who finds delight in contemplating the beautiful scenes of nature, will be highly gratified by walking over these fine hills, and remarking the various pleasing views which present themselves in every direction: for a more enchanting excursion, without a possibility of fatigue from so gradual an ascent on nature's carpet, can hardly be found. Dr. Booker, in his Poem of these hills, thus writes:

" Oh! ever could I wander o'er these lawns,
" Beside thy stream, thou purest spring that flows!
" Climb each bold eminence, and daily find
" Some object new for wonder; the deep glades
" Traverse, embower'd, by intertwining trees,
" Drink at the rill that murmurs at my foot,
" And think it luxury: for ever gaze
" On the wide scene around one, where conspire
" Nature's all-generous offspring to exalt
" And warm the soul."

If a distant view delight, here you may see the counties of Monmouth, Hereford, Radnor, Brecknock, Salop, Worcester, Gloucester, Stafford, Warwick, &c. the Cathedrals of Worcester, Gloucester, and Hereford, together with many market towns. If you are pleased with a nearer

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view, the pear trees of Worcestershire, when in blossom, furnish such a scene as the world besides cannot equal; and on the western side, the apple trees, in Herefordshire, with their purple hue, form an agreeable variety.

The resort of company to this place, for the advantage of the water, has been the occasion of much improvement in the general accommodation; so that few, if any watering places in the kingdom, can boast of more pleasant or convenient accommodations for visitors than Malvern,

"Whether as guests who tarry but a day,"

or whether they reside there during the whole of the season.

To the south east, is

BLACKMORE PARK.

This is a very neat mansion, the seat of J. Hornyold, Esq. placed towards a fine southern aspect, is a neat modern structure, and contains some good pictures. The situation is pleasant, in a fertile country, having on the west, the long range of Malvern Hills; towards the south, the view extends over a large extent of country, to which the rocks above Cheltenham, and the contiguous hills are pleasing boundaries.

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About a mile to the east, is

THE RHYD,

The seat of Anthony Lechmere, Esq. near to the Severn, the banks of which here rise up to a considerable height. Towards the south of the mansion is a fine wood, and from the cliffs, under which the river forms a pleasing curve, the views are really beautiful, comprehending the city of Worcester in the distance, and as rich boundaries as can be wished for.

Contiguous, under the brow of the hill, covered with a fine wood, is a seat appertaining to Sir Charles Trubshaw Withers.

Keeping down the current of the Severn,

SEVERN END

Presents itself, an old comfortable mansion, late the seat of Edmund Lechmere, Esq. which family came out of the Netherlands, and served under William the Conqueror.

In this parish, according to the authority of Lord Lechmere, was Bishop Bonner born, son of an honest poor man, in a house called Bonner's Place, who was put to school, and educated by some of the ancestors of Lord Lechmere's family.

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HANLEY CASTLE,

Which stood at no great distance from the banks of the Severn, was formerly the residence of Lord de Spencer. It was a large square building, with four towers, surrounded by a moat; the keep was placed in the north west corner, but no traces now remain of this once extensive building.

At no great distance to the south west, is

UPTON.

This is a neat fair town, placed in rather a low situation, on the banks of the Severn, over which it has a bridge, built in the reign of King James I. During the civil war one arch was broken down, and a battery of cannon placed in the church-yard, in order to hinder the parliamentary forces from crossing the river; but the object was not obtained. The town is tolerably large, containing about four hundred and thirty-two houses, and two thousand three hundred and seventy-six inhabitants. The church is a neat structure, erected in 1758. Many coins and other pieces of antiquity have been dug up here, but at present, the town does not contain any remarkable buildings. The market day is on Thursday, and fairs are annually held here on March 19, May 28, July 10, and September 17. As this is at the extremity of the proposed distance, being about ten miles

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from Worcester, we will return up the Severn about a mile, at which place is a charming rural box, belonging to Lord Coventry, used principally for fishing parties, and excursions on the river. It is placed on a fine ascent, close to the Severn, half concealed by the luxuriant trees around, and from the water makes a pleasing and picturesque object.

Crossing some excellent pasturage, the village of

SEVERN STOKE

Presents itself, in which is an elegant mansion-house, the occasional residence of the Rev. T. Evans, D. D. Archdeacon of Worcester.

About a mile and a half over the hill, towards the east, is

CROOME.

This is the elegant seat of the Earl of Coventry, Recorder of the city of Worcester. The present mansion was designed by Mr. Browne, the rooms of which are justly and conveniently disposed, and the furniture very handsome. The park and pleasure grounds are upon a large scale, drained and beautified by an artificial river, in which much pains have evidently been taken; and the whole is kept in the most proper order. No situation could have afforded more conveniency for the mansion, nor could the eye have wished for a

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more commanding view. If we examine the vicinity of this seat, in an agricultural point of view, we shall there find objects worthy our attention. The house at Croome, says a writer in the Agricultural View of Worcestershire, is surrounded with fourteen hundred acres of land, under the Earl's own inspection, upon which you do not see a thistle growing, nor a tree or bush undesigned, or out of place. It may very justly be stiled a pattern farm for this kingdom, from its well formed plantations, and its judicious and extensive drains. The late Judge Perrott used frequently to say, that Lord Coventry had brought a million of money into Worcestershire, by his skilful exertions in making the roads throughout the county.

But before we close the present small tour, it will certainly be proper to make a trifling deviation to

STRENSHAM,

Which lies about a mile and a half to the south east of the park belonging to the Earl of Coventry, noted for being the residence of the ancient family of the Russells, as also for the birth place of the celebrated poet, Butler.

Samuel Butler, the author of Hudibras, was the son of a gentleman farmer in this village, where he was born in 1612, and educated at the Grammar school at Worcester, under Mr. H. Bright; after passing six or seven years at

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College, he was for some time, according to the author of his life, clerk to Mr. Jefferys, of Earl's Croome, an eminent Justice of the Peace; his amusements were music and painting, and though his attempts in the latter never arrived at any great proficiency, yet his performances in that art procured him the friendship of the celebrated Cooper.

Butler was of a modest humble temper, had great parts, with profound and various learning. He lived contented, though in narrow circumstances, and on his death, which happened in the year 1680, was buried in Covent Garden Church, at the expence of his friend Mr. Longueville, who had in vain solicited a subscription to lay him in Westminster Abbey.

Perhaps the rigidness of Butler's fate, might be principally owing to the severity of his satire. Hence he, by making many powerful friends, created some powerful enemies, which those who thought proper to resent, were ashamed to own they felt. For according to the poet,

" 'Tis dang'rous too, in these licentious times,
" Howe'er severe the smile, to sport with crimes;
" Vices, when ridicul'd, experience says,
" First lose that horror which they ought to raise,
" Grow by degrees approv'd, and almost aim at praise."

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THE WORCESTER DIRECTORY.

BANKERS.

Messrs. *Berwick, Lechmere, Wall, Wall and Isaac.*
Messrs. *Farley, Johnson, Wakeman and Turner.*

MARKET DAYS.

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays.

FAIRS.

Saturday before Palm Sunday, Saturday in Easter Week, the fifteenth of August, nineteenth of September, and first Monday in December.

The following MARKETS are toll free:—Second Monday in February, first Monday in the months of May, June, July, and November.

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POSTS.

The *London Post* arrives every day from London (except Monday) about noon, and returns at three o'clock (except Sunday).

Birmingham, or North Post, goes out every morning at four o'clock to Droitwich, Bromsgrove, Stourbridge, Dudley, Wolverhampton, Shrewsbury, Bridgnorth, all Shropshire, Warwickshire, Staffordshire, Cheshire, Lancashire, all the counties in the north of England, North Wales, Scotland, and North of Ireland; comes in every evening at nine o'clock.

Bristol, or West Post, goes out every night at nine to Tewkesbury, Glocester, and County Wotton, Bath, Monmouthshire, Herefordshire, Somersetshire, Wiltshire, Devonshire, Cornwall, South Wales, and South of Ireland; comes in every morning at four o'clock.

Hereford Post comes in Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, about noon; returns on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, through Malvern and Ledbury, after the coming in of the London post.

Kidderminster Post goes out every morning at four to Bewdley, Stourbridge, Dudley, &c.

Leominster Post goes out every day, soon after the arrival of the London mail, to Bromyard, and all Radnorshire; comes in the same day about noon.

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Upton Post goes out every day, soon after the arrival of the London mail; comes in every day about noon.

Letters are conveyed to Redditch, Feckenham, Alcester, and Stratford, every Monday, Thursday, and Friday mornings, through Droitwich.

MAIL AND STAGE COACHES.

Bath Coach goes out every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings, at eight o'clock, from the Star and Garter; returns Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday evenings, at four o'clock.

Bath Coach goes out every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday mornings, at seven, from the Crown; comes in Monday, Wednesday, and Friday evenings, about eight o'clock.

Birmingham Mail goes out every morning at four, from the Star and Garter; comes in at nine o'clock every evening.

Birmingham Coach goes out every morning at eight (except Sunday), from the Star and Garter; comes in about one o'clock in the afternoon.

Birmingham Coach goes out every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday evenings, at four o'clock, from the Star and Garter; returns Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings, at eight o'clock.

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Birmingham Coach goes out every day (except Sunday) about two in the afternoon, from the Unicorn; comes in every morning about eight o'clock.

Bristol Mail goes every night at half past eight, from the Star and Garter; comes in at four o'clock in the morning.

Bristol Coach goes every morning (except Sunday) at eight, from the Unicorn; comes in about two in the afternoon.

Bristol Light Post Coach goes every Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday mornings at eight, from the Star and Garter; comes in at one o'clock.

Chester and Holyhead Coach goes every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, at six in the morning, from the Crown; comes in, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday evenings, at six o'clock.

Hereford Mail goes Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, at noon, from the office, in Bell Yard, Broad-street.

Leominster Coach goes on Sundays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, about noon, from the Bell; comes in, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, at same time.

Ludlow Mail goes every Sunday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, at one o'clock, from the Star and Garter; comes in the same mornings at eleven.

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London Coach, (Plastan's) from the Unicorn, through High Wycomb, goes every day at noon; comes in at ten o'clock in the morning. Office in Bell Yard.

Ludlow Coach goes every Tuesday afternoon, at one o'clock, from the Bell.

Oxford and London Post Coach goes every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings, at seven o'clock, from the Star and Garter; comes in the next evenings at same time.

Shrewsbury Coach goes every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday mornings, at six, from the Crown; comes in, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday evenings, about six o'clock.

Shrewsbury Coach, through Ludlow, goes every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornnings, at six o'clock, from the Unicorn; returns every Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday evenings, about seven o'clock.

Upton Mail goes every evening about four o'clock, from the Rein Deer; comes in about noon.

STAGE WAGGONS.

Alcester, Stratford, Warwick, and Coventry Waggon, (Hopkins's) sets out every Monday morning from his warehouse, Quay-street, and returns every Wednesday evening about eight o'clock.

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Birmingham Waggons, (Ashmore's) come in and go out every Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday mornings, from his warehouse in Angel-street.

Bristol Ditto, (Ashmore's) go out every Monday and Thursday mornings, to the White Lion Inn, St. Thomas's-street, Bristol, and return to Worcester on Wednesday and Saturday mornings.

Bristol and Leicester Ditto, (Howse's and Co.) sets out for Bristol on Monday and Thursday mornings, at two o'clock, from the Pack Horse; returns every Tuesday and Friday evenings at four o'clock; starts for Leicester, through Birmingham and Coventry, on Wednesday and Saturday mornings, at two o'clock; and returns to Worcester on Sunday morning, eight o'clock, and Wednesday evening, five o'clock.

Bromyard and Hereford Ditto, (Harris's and Co.) come to the Pack Horse Inn, every Wednesday and Saturday mornings, and return the same day.

Droitwich Ditto, go out Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays, about four o'clock in the afternoon, from the Bush Inn and Tavern.

Dudley Ditto, (Smith's) from Friar-street, Worcester, every Friday evening; arrives there next day, and returns to Worcester on Sunday evening.

Evesham Ditto, (Purser's) come in every Wednesday and Saturday mornings, to Shakes-

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pear Tavern, Angel-street, and return the same days.

Evesham Waggons, (Wayne's) come in from Evesham to the Pack Horse, same time with Purser's.

Kidderminster Ditto, (Burden's) go out every Monday and Thursday mornings, to the Black Horse Inn, Kidderminster; return on the following days.

Kidderminster Ditto, (Burden's) go out every Thursday and Saturday, to R. Shirley's warehouse, Kidderminster; return Friday and Tuesday evenings.

London Ditto, (Burden's) starts from his warehouse, Angel-street, Worcester, every Tuesday evening, at ten o'clock, and arrives at the Saracen's Head, Snow Hill, London, Saturday morning, six o'clock; returns the same day; arrives in Worcester, Wednesday morning, seven o'clock.

London Ditto, (Burden's) go out every Friday evening, five o'clock, to the Castle and Falcon Inn, Aldersgate-street, London; arrive there Tuesday mornings, six o'clock; leave London same day, and arrive in Worcester on Saturday mornings, seven o'clock.

London Ditto, (Burden's) go from Angel-street, Worcester, every Tuesday evening, ten o'clock, to the Castle and Falcon, and on Friday evening, ten o'clock, to the Bull and Mouth Inn,

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Bull and Mouth-street, London; start and return same day, and arrive in Worcester on Wednesday and Saturday mornings, seven o'clock.

London Waggons, (Smith's) go from Friar-street, Worcester, every Monday evening, and arrive at the Bull and Mouth Inn, London, on Friday night; return for Worcester on Saturday mornings, and arrive on Wednesday mornings.

London Ditto, (Quaker Endall's) go from the Pack Horse Inn, Worcester, at uncertain times.

Ludlow Ditto, (Taylor's) from the Hop Market, Worcester, every Thursday evening; return on Tuesday evenings.

Leominster Ditto, (Tudor's) from the Pack Horse, every Wednesday evening; return on Monday evening.

Ledbury, Hereford, Hay, and South Wales Ditto, (Burden's) set out from Angel-street, Worcester, every Wednesday and Saturday evenings, and return Tuesday and Friday evenings.

Ledbury, Hereford, Bromyard, Hay, and South Wales Ditto, (Harris's and Co.) sets out from the Pack Horse every Wednesday and Saturday evenings, at seven and nine o'clock, and returns on Saturday mornings, six o'clock.

Malvern Ditto, (Bannister's) come in every Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday mornings

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about eleven o'clock, and return the same days, about one o'clock, from the Bush Inn and Tavern.

Malvern Wa- on, (Matthews's) comes in and goes out same .ime as Bannister's.

Oxford Ditto, go out on Tuesday evenings, from Sidbury.

Pershore and Evesham, on Wednesdays and Saturdays, from the Pack Horse, and Angel-street.

Wolverhampton Caravan sets out every Thursday morning, at four o'clock, from Cox's, Cheshire Cheese Entry, Foregate-street; returns on Fridays.

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WHERRIES.

Glocester, (Bridges) Tuesdays and Fridays; Marquis of Granby.

Bewdley, (Field) Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays; Green Dragon.

Bridgnorth, (Collins and Jones) Tuesdays and Fridays; Green Dragon.

Shrewsbury, (Brown and Co.) once a week; Britannia.

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WEEKLY BARGES.

Bewdley, (Field) Mondays and Thursdays; Green Dragon.

Bewdley and Stourport Market Barge, (Smith and Birch) comes to Worcester every Friday, about eleven o'clock in the morning, and returns every Tuesday morning about seven o'clock. Warehouse at the Britannia, Doldy.

Upton, Tewkesbury, and Glocester, (Jones) Saturdays; Anchor.

Rhyd and Upton, (Haw) Saturdays; Marquis of Granby.

Rhyd and Upton, (Pumphrey) Saturdays; Marquis of Granby.

REGULAR TROWS.

To and from *Bristol,* every full and change of the moon; Neptune.

Bridgnorth and Stourport, (Jones) Neptune and Hopewell.

Bewdley and Stourport, (Mules, Barnett, and Co.) Hopewell, Success, Active, and Defiance.

Bewdley and Stourport, (Devey) William and Mary, John, Industry, and Betsey.

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Worcester and Stourport, (Child and Co. late T. Farley, Esq.) Worcester, Prosper, Neptune, and John.

Bristol Traders. Crump, Belsham, and Reynolds, Bewdley. Worcester; W. Pugh, (takes goods for Newport), —— Evans, and Edward Reese.

N. B. Irish Traders sail constant from Bristol.

FINIS.

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ERRATUM.—P. 65, last line but three, *for* 1804 *read* 1084.

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